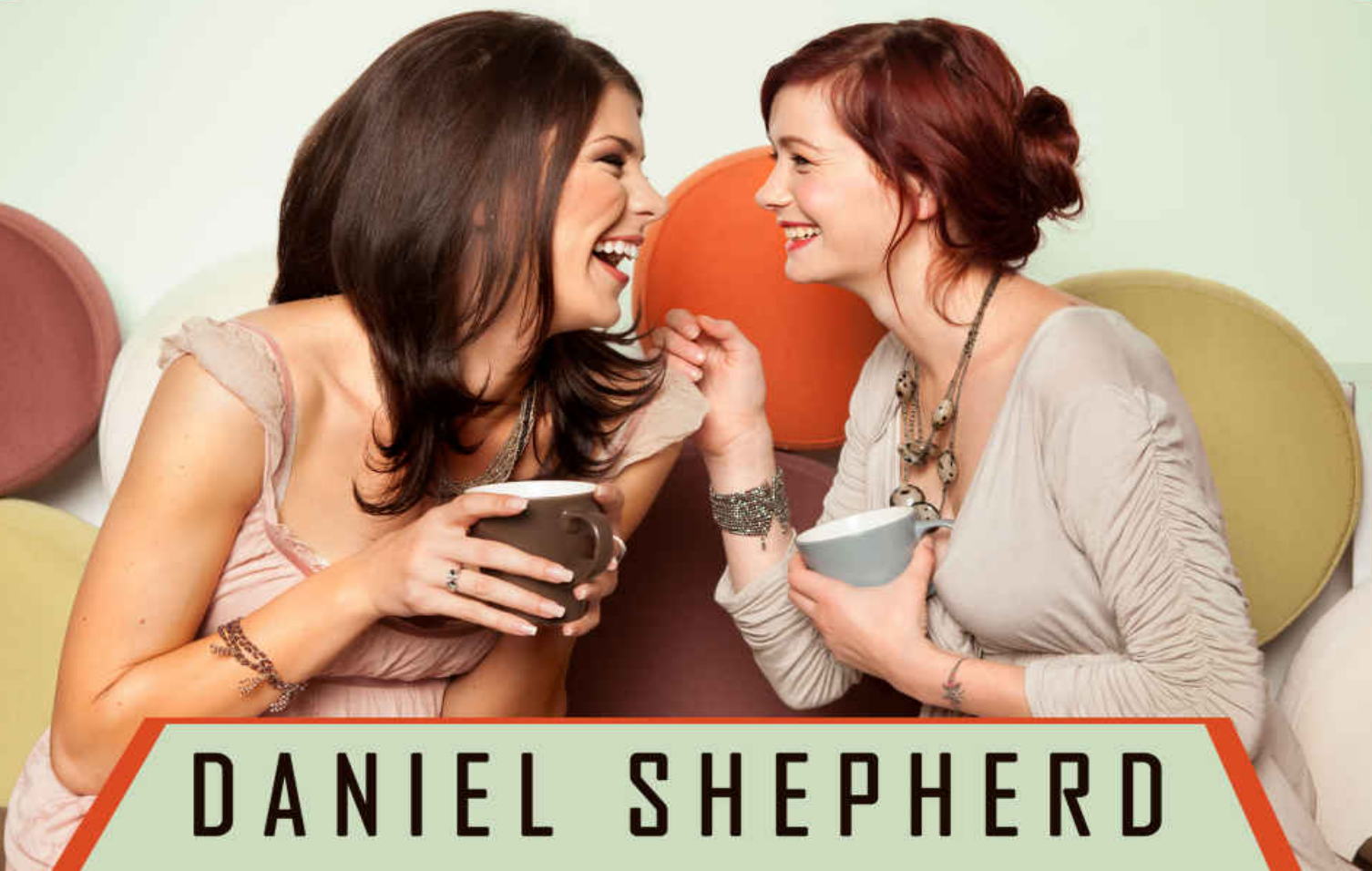


EASY PHRASAL VERBS

*LEARN ENGLISH VERBS
THROUGH CONVERSATIONS*



DANIEL SHEPHERD

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Foreword

Welcome To This Book!

My name is Dan Shepherd and I was an English teacher in Japan from 1995 to 2009, where I ran a language school and taught students of all ages and from a wide variety of backgrounds. During my time in Japan, I realized that learners of English often find phrasal verbs difficult to use. When I looked for a good textbook to help my students, I found reference books on phrasal verbs, but I couldn't find any books showing how to use phrasal verbs in everyday conversation. I decided that one day I would write a book about phrasal verbs. This is that book. It is not a reference book — there are many excellent ones already. Its goal is to give examples of phrasal verbs in conversation so that you can learn how to use them in daily life.

This book is the result of many years of experience and research. I have written over 450 original conversations based on 50 carefully selected meanings of common phrasal verbs. There are also over 200 exercise questions for you to test your understanding. I hope that you will find this book useful and, after reading it and doing the exercises, that you will feel more confident about using phrasal verbs.

Happy reading.

Dan Shepherd

Acknowledgements

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What Are Phrasal Verbs?

A phrasal verb is a combination of a verb like *come*, *go*, *get*, *take*, *put*, and *look* and a particle like *to*, *in*, *out*, *from*, *back*, and *about*. Adding the particle changes the original meaning of the verb.

For example:

get = obtain

I have to **get** some milk from the supermarket.

get + to = arrive

We will **get to** London at 09:35.

go = travel

I **go** to my office every morning.

go + out = have a romantic relationship

I like to **go out** with handsome guys.

Phrasal verbs are a very important part of English. Native English speakers often use phrasal verbs because they are short and efficient, so learning phrasal verbs can help you to understand what native speakers are saying. Most phrasal verbs are used in spoken and written English and can be used in both informal and formal situations, such as at work.

Transitive or Intransitive

Some phrasal verbs are transitive. This means the verb has an object.

For example:

I *come from* **Rome**.

In the example, “Rome” is the object of the transitive phrasal verb, “come from”.

Some phrasal verbs are intransitive. This means the verb does not have an object.

For example:

The taxi *broke down* on the way to the airport.

This happened to the taxi naturally, without anyone’s action. There is no object. In this example, “broke down” is an intransitive phrasal verb.

Separable or Nonseparable

Phrasal verbs are either separable or nonseparable. Unfortunately, there is no rule that will tell you if a phrasal verb is separable or nonseparable simply by looking at it. To help you, the phrasal verbs contained in this book are labelled, “separable” or “nonseparable”.

Nonseparable Phrasal Verbs

In nonseparable phrasal verbs, you cannot separate the verb and the particle.

This sentence is correct:

Subject	Verb	Particle	Object (Noun)
They	come	from	Germany

This sentence is **wrong**:

Subject	Verb	Object (Noun)	Particle
They	come	Germany	from

Separable Phrasal Verbs

In separable phrasal verbs, you can separate the verb and the particle.

Subject	Verb	Particle	Object (Noun)
He	gave	back	the book

Subject	Verb	Object (Noun)	Particle
He	gave	the book	back

Here “gave” and “back” are separated by the object, “the book”. Both sentences are correct.

If, however, the object is a pronoun like, *me, you, her, him, it, us, them*, the pronoun must be placed between the verb and the particle.

This sentence is correct:

Subject	Verb	Object (Noun)	Particle
She	gave	it	back

This sentence is **wrong**:

Subject	Verb	Particle	Object
---------	------	----------	--------

			(Noun)
She	gave	back	it

Finally, if a separable phrasal verb has two objects, you have to separate the verb.

This sentence is correct:

Subject	Verb	Object 1	Particle	Object 2
He	put	a tablecloth	on	the table

This sentence is **wrong**:

Subject	Verb	Particle	Object 1	Object 2
He	put	on	a tablecloth	the table

Please go to my website for recommendations of good reference books about phrasal verbs and English grammar.

www.phrasalverbsexamples.com

1. Look at (1)

To move your eyes to see someone or something

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
look/looks at	be looking at	looked at	have/has looked at

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

view; glance at

1.1 look at (present tense)

1.1.1 Two friends are in the cafeteria at college.

A: Look at that. Today's special is beef stew.

B: Where does it say that?

A: Look at the menu in front of the counter.

B: Oh yeah. Hmmm... I think I'll have the stew in that case.

1.1.2 Jenn and her friend are sitting on a bench in the shopping mall. While they are talking, Jenn sees a very cute guy walking past.

Jenn: Hey, isn't that the guy you met at the party last night?

Friend: Oh my God! Yes, it is.... Don't look at him!

Jenn: Why not? I thought you liked him.

Friend: No, no. I talked with him at the party, but he was really weird so I spent all evening avoiding him. Don't look at him. He'll see us and come over.

Jenn: Ok, ok.

1.2 be looking at (present continuous)

1.2.1 James and Claire are sitting outside a cafe. The street is very busy and many people are walking past.

James: What are you looking at?

Claire: There's a man dancing in the street.

James: Where?

Claire: In front of the bank.

James: I don't see him.

Claire: You're looking at the wrong bank. He's on the other side of the street.

James: Oh yeah. He's seems to be enjoying himself!

1.2.2 Susan is trying to find her keys. She asks her partner where the keys are.

Susan: Honey, have you seen my keys?

Partner: Aren't they on the kitchen table?

Susan: I can't see them.

Partner: Are you sure?

Susan: I'm looking at the table. They're not there.

Partner: How about on top of the TV?

Susan: Found them!

Partner: Where were they?

Susan: On the kitchen table, under a pile of letters.

1.3 be looking at (past continuous)

1.3.1 Paul is telling Donald about a magic show that he went to see.

Paul: That magic show yesterday was awesome!

Donald: Really? What did the magician do?

Paul: Well, he did a lot of card tricks, but my favorite trick was when he made a rabbit disappear.

Donald: It's all just an illusion.

Paul: I know, but I was looking at the rabbit and the magician's hands the whole time and it just disappeared! I couldn't see how he did it.

Donald: Maybe you didn't look closely enough.

1.4 looked at (past tense)

1.4.1 Sarah and her friend David are sitting in the park eating their lunch.

Sarah: Did you see the squirrel?

David: What squirrel? Where?

Sarah: It was right there in front of the tree.

David: It's not there now.

Sarah: No. I looked at it and when it saw me, it ran up the tree.

David: Maybe it'll come back down.

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations:

1.

A: Hey, _____ that guy over there.

B: Which one?

A: The one wearing the funny hat.

2.

A: What are you _____ ?

B: Hmmm?

A: You're obviously _____ something interesting.

B: Oh... No. I'm just thinking about what I'd like to eat for lunch.

3.

A: Wow. What happened to your eye?

B: I got into a fight with some guy.

A: Why?

B: I don't know. I just _____ him and he suddenly got really mad, came over and punched me!

A: Where were you?

B: In a club.

A: Sounds like he was drunk.

4.

A: Hi, is that IT support?

B: Yes, how can I help?

A: My computer won't switch on.

B: Sometimes, the computers here take a long time to boot up.

A: I know, but I've been _____ a blank screen for five minutes and nothing is happening.

B: Ok. We'll send someone to fix it.

A: Thanks.

5.

A: Hi. What happened to your hair?

B: I know. Don't _____ me. It's a disaster.

A: Bad haircut?

B: I told the stylist to cut it short, but not this short!

A: Oh no. Poor you.

2. Look at (2)

To read something quickly (so you can give an opinion on it)

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
look/looks at	be looking at	looked at	have/has looked at

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

read; study; inspect

2.1 look at (present tense)

2.1.1 Linda is asking Joan to check her essay before she submits it to her teacher.

Linda: Joan, could you look at my essay?

Joan: Is it the essay that we have to hand in tomorrow?

Linda: Yeah. I'm not sure if I've understood the topic.

Joan: Sure. But, can you look at mine, too? Let's swap.

Linda: Sure. No problem.

2.1.2 Michael is writing a report for his boss, Michelle. Michelle sees Michael writing the report and comes over to his desk.

Michelle: Hi Michael. Is that the report I asked you to send to John?

Michael: Yes, it is.

Michelle: Could I look at it before you send it please?

Michael: Sure. I'll email it to you by lunch.

Michelle: Great. Thanks.

2.2 be looking at (present continuous)

2.2.1 Deborah sent Tim an article yesterday to read for his English class.

Deborah: Hey Tim. How's it going?

Tim: Good thanks.

Deborah: Was that article helpful?

Tim: Actually, I'm looking at it right now. It's really interesting.

Deborah: Glad it was useful.

Tim: Thanks.

2.3 looked at (past)

2.3.1 Andrew is sitting with his friend, Raymond, in the cafeteria at school.

Andrew: Have you seen the reading list for history class? It's insane.

Raymond: Yeah, I looked at it yesterday. Looks ok to me.

Andrew: Are you serious? It's going to take me forever to read all that.

Raymond: You'd better get started then!

2.4 be looking at (past continuous)

2.4.1 Amanda and Courtney are talking about what they did last night. Mrs. Smith is their English teacher.

Amanda: How was your evening?

Courtney: Not bad. Jamie came over and we watched a movie on TV.

Amanda: Sounds nice. Did you finish that reading homework?

Courtney: Oh no! I completely forgot.

Amanda: Oh.

Courtney: I was looking at it after dinner and then Jamie called me. I completely forgot about it.

Amanda: Mrs. Smith won't be happy.

Courtney: No, she won't.

2.5 be going to look at (future plan)

2.5.1 Edward is speaking with his English teacher, Mr. Khan.

Edward: Hi, Mr. Khan. Have you had time to look at my essay?

Mr. Khan: Not yet. I'm going to look at it tonight.

Edward: Thanks.

2.6 will look at (offer of future help)

2.6.1 Three students are discussing an art project they are working on together.

A: So, we need to make a big poster for the project. Who's going to think of some designs?

B: I'll do that.

A: Thanks. What else do we have to do for the project?

B: I don't remember what the teacher said. There was a list of things.

A: I think the list is available online.

C: Ok. I'll look at it tonight. Let's meet up again tomorrow.

A: Sure. Sounds good.

B: Sure.

2.7 have looked at (present perfect)

2.7.1 Scott is Nancy's boss. He is asking her about an email that he sent to her yesterday.

Scott: Hi Nancy. Have you looked at the email I sent you?

Nancy: No, I'm sorry. I haven't looked at it yet.

Scott: No problem. Can you look at it this afternoon, please? I need the info for a meeting tomorrow.

Nancy: Ok. I'll look at it now.

2.8 looking at (gerund form)

2.8.1 Mustafa is helping his friend, Noah, by checking his essay for him.

Noah: Hi Mustafa. I finished looking at your essay.

Mustafa: Great. How was it?

Noah: I liked it. There were a few grammatical mistakes, but not many.

Mustafa: Thanks for looking at it.

Noah: You're welcome.

Mustafa: Let's go grab a coffee. My treat.

Noah: Thanks.

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations:

1.

A: I'm not very happy with my essay. I don't think it's very good.

B: Why not?

A: My English grammar isn't good.

B: Do you want me to _____ it for you?

A: That would be a great help. Thank you.

B: No problem.

A: Tomorrow lunch is on me!

B: Great. Thanks.

2.

A: Hey, what's this?

B: It's the electricity bill, I think.

A: How much was it this month?

B: Don't know. Haven't _____ it yet.

3.

A: Have you read that email from the manager?

B: No, not yet. I'll _____ it later. I'm busy right now.

A: Make sure you _____ it . She's not very happy with us.

B: Really? Ok. I'll _____ it right after this.

4.

A: Why didn't you read the homework article?

B: I'm sorry. I was _____ it last night, but I suddenly started to feel sick so I went to bed early.

A: Ok. No problem. Are you feeling better?

B: Yes, thanks.

5.

A: Have you had time to _____ my essay yet?

B: Yes, but I haven't finished yet. Can you wait until tomorrow?

A: Sure. No problem. Thanks for _____ it.

B: You're welcome.

3. Look at (3)

Examine something (and decide what to do)

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
look/looks at	be looking at	looked at	have/has looked at

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

analyze; ascertain; scrutinize

3.1 look at (present tense)

3.1.1 Karim has a rash on his arm. His friend Ethan is worried.

Ethan: How long have you had that rash?

Karim: A few days. It's really itchy.

Ethan: Did you eat anything strange?

Karim: I'm not sure. Maybe.

Ethan: You should let the doctor look at that.

Karim: I'll go tomorrow.

3.1.2 Ben, Samuel and Luis share a house. The hot water has stopped working.

Ben: Shall I call the landlord about the hot water?

Luis: Yeah. Please do. He has to fix it.

Samuel: He needs to send a plumber to look at it.

Ben: Ok. I'll call him.

3.2 be looking at (present continuous)

3.2.1 Sophia is talking to her lab partner Gabrielle. Gabrielle is examining something through a microscope.

Sophia: What are you looking at Gabrielle?

Gabrielle: I'm looking at our bacteria samples from yesterday.

Sophia: How do they look?

Gabrielle: The bacteria are growing well. It's a success.

Sophia. Great.

3.3 looked at (simple past)

3.3.1 Olivia is Emma's boss. She is asking Emma about some sales data.

Olivia: Did you have time to look at the sales data?

Emma: I looked at it yesterday. I'm just writing a report on it.

Olivia: Great. How are we doing?

Emma: Sales are up, so that's good news.

Olivia: Glad to hear it!

3.3.2 Wei went to the doctor yesterday. He's talking with his friend Hiroto about what happened.

Hiroto: What happened to your arm Wei?

Wei: I fell over when I was playing soccer and hurt it.

Hiroto: Ouch. That must have hurt!

Wei: Yeah. I had to go to the hospital. The doctor looked at it and then sent me for an x-ray.

Hiroto: Is it broken?

Wei: Luckily, no. It's just a bad sprain.

Hiroto: At least it's not broken.

Wei: Yeah.

3.4 be looking at (past continuous)

3.4.1 Mohammad is talking with his friend Arav about his broken computer.

Arav: Why does your computer have a cracked screen?

Mohammad: Good question. I went to the computer repair store to have the keyboard repaired and the repair guy dropped it on the floor!

Arav: No way! That sucks. How did he do that?

Mohammad: I don't know. Just clumsy. He was looking at the keyboard and he turned it upside down. That's when it slipped out of his hands.

Arav: Are they going to pay for the damage.

Mohammad: Yeah. They are going to fix everything for free.

Arav: So they should.

3.4.2 Jie is speaking to Ali who works for IT support at his company.

Jie: Hi, is that IT support?

Ali: Yes. How can I help?

Jie: My computer won't log on.

Ali: Ok. The network might be down again. The technician was looking at it yesterday. I thought he'd fixed it. I'll check what's happened and call you back.

Jie: Thanks.

3.5 be going to look at (future plan)

3.5.1 Liang and Justin share a dorm room at college. The light in their room is broken. Liang has asked the college to fix the light.

Justin: Is the light still broken?

Liang: Yep. But the guy is going to look at it tomorrow while we're out.

Justin: Good. Otherwise, we'll have to study by candlelight!

Liang: Yeah.

3.6 will look at (offer of future help)

3.6.1 Seo-yeon downloaded something on her computer and now it won't work properly. She asks her friend, Fatima, to help.

Seo-yeon: Fatima, are you busy now?

Fatima: A little. I'm in the middle of writing an essay. Why?

Seo-yeon: I downloaded a program from the internet and now my computer won't work.

Fatima: Ok. I'll look at it tonight. I've really got to finish this essay first.

Seo-yeon: Thank you! You're a lifesaver.

Fatima: No problem.

3.7 have looked at (present perfect)

3.7.1 Jane fell down while she was walking on the street and hurt her arm. Jane is talking to her doctor.

Jane: Is it bad doctor?

Doctor: Well, I've looked at your x-ray and there doesn't seem to be any major damage.

Jane: That's a relief.

Doctor: It looks like a bad sprain. You'll be ok in six to eight weeks.

Jane: Thanks, doctor.

Doctor: You're welcome.

3.7.2 Kevin is Tom's boss. Yesterday Kevin sent Tom a report about some problems the company is experiencing.

Kevin: Hi Tom. Have you looked at that report I sent you yesterday? Any ideas for how we're going to solve the problem?

Tom: I have. I've written down some ideas. Shall I email them to you or would you like to have a meeting?

Kevin: Let's sit down together after lunch and look at them.

Tom: Sure.

3.8 be looked at (passive)

3.7.1 John applied for a new job at a bank. He hasn't heard anything from the bank so he decides to call them and ask why.

Bank: Hello. Western Credit Bank. How can I help?

John: Hi. My name is John Robertson. I applied for a role with the bank a few weeks ago but I haven't heard anything back. I just wondered whether my application was being considered.

Bank: Let me check for you, sir.... Yes, your application was looked at but, unfortunately, you weren't successful this time.

John: Oh, I see. Thank you for your time.

Bank: No problem, sir. Thank you for calling.

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations:

1.

A: Is the computer network down again?

B: Yeah. They're _____ it this afternoon.

A: Why can't they fix it now?

B: Apparently they're too busy.

2.

A: What's wrong with your eye? It's all red.

B: I don't know. It's been itchy for a few days now.

A: You should ask the doctor to _____ it .

B: I think I will.

3.

A: What's in this sample?

B: I'm not sure. Let's _____ it under the microscope.

A: Here you go.

B: Thanks. It seems to be some kind of plant cell.

4.

A: Have you had time to _____ that report?

B: No, sorry. I haven't _____ it yet.

A: Will you have time this afternoon.

B: Yes, I think so.

5.

A: We've _____ your x-rays and you have a broken wrist.

B: Oh no. Will it take a long time to heal?

A: It could take up to three months.

B: Oh no.

4. Look at (4)

To think about a situation or subject carefully (especially to make a decision)

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
look/looks at	be looking at	looked at	have/has looked at

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

consider; contemplate; deliberate

4.1 look at (present tense)

4.1.1 Yuuma, Adam, Shu-fen and Mariko are trying to decide where to go on vacation.

Yuuma: We could go to the Grand Canyon.

Adam: Sounds boring. I'm not keen on nature.

Shu-fen: Really? I like the sound of the Grand Canyon.

Mariko: I'd prefer to go to a city.

Adam: Me, too.

Shu-fen: Ok. There are a lot of cities to choose from. Let's check on the internet and look at the options.

4.2 have to/must look at (imperative)

4.2.1 Marc is speaking with his boss Yusif. Marc made a big mistake at work and he is talking about this with Yusif.

Marc: I really made a big mistake this time.

Yusif: Don't worry. We all make mistakes. What's important is to learn from them.

Marc: Yes. Sorry.

Yusif: You have to look at the situation very carefully before making any decisions next time.

Marc: I will.

4.3 will look at (future intention)

4.3.1 Lucas has some good ideas to start a new company. He is speaking with an investor about them.

Lucas: So what do you think?

Investor: Well, I like your ideas. I'll look at them carefully with my colleagues and get back to you soon.

Lucas: Thanks.

Investor: No. Thank you.

4.4 looked at (past tense)

4.4.1 Emma is the chairperson at a meeting. The group is discussing the amount of bicycle parking at the college.

Emma: Ok. We looked at the situation very carefully at the last meeting and this time we need to make a decision about the best place to put the new cycle parking.

Freeda: Let's take a vote.

Emma: Good idea.

4.5 be looking at (past continuous)

4.5.1 Aya is talking to Charlotte about her vacation plans.

Charlotte: So, you're going to Europe this summer with Jack, right?

Aya: Yeah. I'm so excited!

Charlotte: It sounds amazing.

Aya: Yeah, I know.

Charlotte: So where are you going first?

Aya: Well, we were looking at starting the trip in Paris, but now we're pretty sure we want to start in Barcelona.

Charlotte: I've been to Barcelona. It's fabulous.

Aya: So, I hear.

Charlotte: Are you going to stay in hotels?

Aya: Well, we were looking at that and it seems using Airbnb would be cheaper.

Charlotte: What's Airbnb?

Aya: It's a way you can rent people's apartments for a couple of days.

Charlotte: Good idea.

4.6 be going to look at (future plan)

4.6.1 Ben and John are going to sell their house. They are talking to their friend, Kevin about it.

Kevin: So, how's the house sale going?

Ben: Don't ask. It's been a nightmare so far.

Kevin: Why?

John: Well, someone made an offer, but it was much less than we'd hoped for.

Kevin: Oh no.

Ben: Yeah, it sucks.

Kevin: Why wouldn't they offer more money?

John: They said that the interior was too old fashioned.

Ben: We're going to look at redecorating.

Kevin: Let me know if you want help with the painting!

Ben: Thanks!

4.7 have looked at (present perfect)

4.7.1 Feng's house is very cold in winter. He is talking with his friend, Richard about it.

Feng: My house is so cold in winter. I spend so much money on heating.

Richard: Have you looked at insulating it?

Feng: How do I do that?

Richard: You can insulate the attic pretty cheaply.

Feng: Can you?

Richard: Yep. Just go to the store and get some rolls of insulation. You just put them in your attic.

Feng: I think I'd rather pay a professional to do it.

Richard: Ok. It still shouldn't be super expensive. And you'll save a lot of money this winter!

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations:

1.

A: I visited the art exhibit at the college yesterday.

B: How was it? I haven't been yet.

A: The art was excellent, but the building is so old and ugly.

B: Yeah, I know. I think they're _____ refurbishing it.

A: That would be good.

2.

A: I think your report is good, but it can be improved.

B: I see. How?

A: You need to _____ the problem in more depth.

B: Ok. I'll rewrite it.

3.

A: The investors were _____ my idea but decided not to invest at the last minute.

B: That's too bad.

A: It's ok. It's their loss. I'll find some other investors. I have faith in my idea!

B: So do I.

4.

A: We've _____ the situation very carefully and we've decided to ok the project.

B: That's great news. Thank you.

A: We need to arrange a meeting soon to _____ the details of the project.

B: Of course.

5.

A: The teaching at this college is really good, but the facilities really aren't.

B: Yes, I know. I've heard that they are _____ improving the facilities soon though.

A: That's good news. Hopefully it will happen before we finish studying here!

B: Ha ha. Yeah.

5. Look at (5)

Used to give an example of something. It is only used in present tense.

Present
look at

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

consider; think about

5.1.1 Anya is talking to her mom about getting a part-time job.

Mom: If you want more money, why don't you get a part-time job?

Anya: I don't have time. I need to study.

Mom: Ok. But, look at your friend, Jane. She works part-time and still gets good grades.

Anya: That's because she has no social life.

Mom: Well, you'll just have to sacrifice some of your social life if you want more money.

Anya: That sucks.

Mom: Too bad.

5.1.2 Jenn and her friend Tracy are talking about online dating.

Jenn: I don't think online dating works. I've heard the websites are filled with creepy guys.

Tracy: Well, a lot of people use it now. It's really popular.

Jenn: Yeah, but does anyone get married?

Tracy: Sure. Look at Dave and Katy. They met online.

Jenn: No way! I didn't know that. I thought they met at a party or something.

5.1.3 Jing and John are discussing Chinese food.

Jing: There aren't any really good Chinese restaurants in this country.

John: Really? Look at San Francisco. It has a huge China Town and some great restaurants.

Jing: I guess you're right. But I still think Chinese food is much better in Beijing.

John: Of course. But we live in the USA right now.

Jing: Let's go to San Fran this weekend.

John: Why not. I know a great restaurant I want to take you to.

5.1.4 Maria and Anika are discussing religion.

Maria: I think religions always cause conflict.

Anika: Really? I don't agree. Just look at Japan. Many people there practice various religions, sometimes simultaneously.

Maria: Like how?

Anika: Well, Japanese usually go to a Shinto shrine or a Christian Church to get married, but have a Buddhist funeral.

Maria: Wow. That's interesting.

5.1.5 Alice and David are talking about the cost of vacationing in Europe.

Alice: I'd love to go to Europe, but it's just so expensive.

David: It doesn't have to be. Look at Carrie. She managed to tour around Europe for three months on very little money.

Alice: Did she? But, did she stay in dodgy places?

David: I don't think so. She used youth hostels. You should ask her about it.

Alice: I will. Europe here I come!

Exercises

Disagree with the following statements by replying with a statement using “Look at”.

1.

A: This city doesn't have any good restaurants.

B: _____

2.

A: There aren't any famous female scientists.

B: _____

3.

A: Vacations in Europe are always expensive.

B: _____

4.

A: There aren't any African-American politicians.

B: _____

5.

A: There aren't any women running famous companies.

B: _____

6. Set up (1)

To make something ready to use

Present	Continuous		Past	Present perfect
set/sets up	setting up		set up	set up

Separable

Verbs of similar meaning:

prepare; make ready; put together; assemble

6.1 set up (present tense)

6.1.1 Paul has joined a choir at his college. He's talking to the choir's director, Hiroto.

Hiroto: Welcome to the choir, Paul.

Paul: Thanks. Can I help set up?

Hiroto: Sure. That would be great. We usually set up in room 2. Over there.

Paul: Ok. I'll get started. How many chairs?

Hiroto: Oh. About twenty, I think. The others will be here soon to help you set them up. Thanks.

6.1.2 Mia has just started working for ABC Corp. She wants to hold a meeting in the company's conference room, but she isn't sure how to set up the equipment in the room so she asks a colleague for assistance.

Mia: Hi Jean. I want to hold a meeting in the conference room. How do I set up the big screen?

Jean: Oh, you should ask Don. Don is the office manager. He usually sets up the conference room for meetings. Just ask him to set it up for you.

Mia: Thanks. I will.

6.2 be setting up (present continuous)

6.2.1 David is looking for Rob, but he can't find him. They are scheduled to have a meeting together. David phones Rob's cell to find out where he is.

David: Hi Rob. Where are you? We're meeting at two, right?

Rob: Yes. I'm in conference room B. I'm setting up my presentation for the meeting.

David: Oh. I thought we were meeting at our desks. Sorry. I'll come right down.

Rob: Ok. See you in a minute.

6.3 set up (past tense)

6.3.1 Tracy is complaining to her colleague, Emma, because somebody has installed the computer in the meeting room incorrectly.

Tracy: Do you know who set up the computer in meeting room 1?

Emma: No. It was probably Stefan from IT Services. Why?

Tracy: It doesn't work properly and it has the wrong software on it.

Emma: I think you'll have to give Stefan a call and ask him to look at it.

Tracy: I will.

6.3.2 Greg's mom is complaining because Greg put the chairs for the family barbecue in the wrong place.

Mom: Greg! Why did you set up the chairs like this? They're in the wrong place.

Greg: I don't know. I just set them up in lines. Why does it matter so much?

Mom: I want people to be able to talk to each other easily when they're sitting down. You've put all the chairs in lines. People won't be able to talk to each other like that.

Greg: Ok, ok. I'll move the chairs.

6.4 be setting up (past continuous)

6.4.1 Eric is talking to a friend, Karen, about his mother's computer.

Eric: Oh my god. I'm so pissed.

Karen: Why what happened?

Eric: I was setting up my mom's new computer for her when her cat jumped on to the table and knocked over a glass of water all over the computer! It's completely ruined.

Karen: Oh no!

Eric: It took me months to save up for that computer. It was a birthday gift for my mom and now it's a pile of junk.

Karen: Oh no. Poor you. I'm sure your mom isn't very pleased, either.

Eric: She cares more about her cat than the computer so she's not that pissed.

6.5 will set up (future offer of help)

6.5.1 Ivan is struggling to install some new software on his computer. He asks his roommate, Josh, for help.

Ivan: Josh. You're good with computers, right?

Josh: I'm ok. Why? What's up?

Ivan: I'm trying to install a new game, but it won't work.

Josh: No problem. I'll set it up for you. I'm sure it won't take long. Let me have a look.

Ivan: Go for it.

Josh: Yeah. No problem.

Ivan: Thanks, Josh.

Josh: You're welcome.

6.6 be going to set up (future plan)

6.6.1 Trevor is leading a group of scouts on a camping trip. They are hiking in the woods with their camping gear.

Trevor: Ok guys. We're going to set up camp over there, next to the river bank.

Scout: Won't we fall in?

Trevor: Not right next to the river. You're going to set up the tents about ten meters from the river, ok?

Scout: Ok.

Trevor: I'm going to set up the kitchen next to that big oak tree.

6.7 have/has set up (present perfect)

6.7.1 Jude has to set up a new projector at work, but she can't figure out how to do it. She is asking her colleague, Olivia, to help.

Jude: Hi Olivia.

Olivia: Hi. How's it going, Jude?

Jude: Not good. Have you ever set up a projector?

Olivia: Once or twice. Why?

Jude: Guess who can't figure out how to set up the new projector?

Olivia: That would be you, I'm guessing.

Jude: Uh-huh.

Olivia: Ok. Give me five minutes to finish this email and then I'll come help you.

Jude: Thanks Olivia. You're a lifesaver.

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations:

1.

A: Where are we going to _____ the tables and chairs for the barbecue?

B: Anywhere is fine. I'll leave it up to you to decide.

2.

A: I've bought a new computer. Will you _____ for me, son?

B: Ok, mom. I suppose I have no choice.

A: Nope.

B: Ha ha. Ok, then. I'll come round this weekend and _____ for you.

A: Thanks.

3.

A: Have you _____ the computer and projector in the conference room for the meeting?

B: Oh, sorry. Not yet. I'll do it now.

A: Thanks.

4.

A: Ok. I'm done fetching wood for the fire. Where did Tim go?

B: He's behind that tree _____ the toilet.

A: Oh. I'll go help him.

5.

A: Where should we _____ the tables and chairs.

B: Oh. I'm not sure. I'll check with the wedding planner. Please wait here for a minute.

A: Sure. No problem.

7. Set up (2)

To organize or establish something, especially an event, group or a system

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
set/sets up	be setting up	set up	set up

Separable

Verbs of similar meaning:

establish; organize; build; start

7.1 set up (present tense)

7.1.1 Mary is speaking with her personal assistant, Logan.

Mary: Hi Logan. I need to set up a meeting with Nathan Williams.

Logan: Nathan Williams... Sure. When for?

Mary: Could you check my schedule and ask Nathan for his availability?

Logan: Of course. No problem.

Mary: Thanks.

7.1.2 Some students at a college are concerned about the environmental impact of the college. The students are speaking to their teacher about this.

Student A: We are really concerned that this college isn't doing enough to protect the environment.

Teacher: In that case, why don't you set up an environmental group for students and speak to the college about your concerns?

Student B: I don't think the college will listen to us.

Teacher: It will if the group is large enough.

Student A: Ok. That's a good idea. Let's set one up.

Student B: We'll have to think of a good name for it.

7.2 be setting up (present continuous)

7.2.1 Two students are complaining about internet access at their college.

Valentina: There aren't enough computers for students in this college. The study hall is always full. And they don't have wifi so we can't use our own laptops.

Ai: I heard that they're setting up a wifi system.

Valentina: Really? That would be awesome. I could use my own laptop and wouldn't have to wait for a computer every day. Let's hope they set it up soon. I'm sick of waiting.

7.3 set up (past tense)

7.3.1 Fatemeh and Maryam work in an office. They are talking about their work. Maryam is new, but Fatemeh has worked at the office for several years.

Maryam: I like working here. There is much less paperwork than my previous office.

Fatemeh: You're lucky you joined us this year. Last year we had a crazy amount of paperwork.

Maryam: What happened?

Fatemeh: They set up a new document management system so there is a lot less paperwork now.

Maryam: Cool. Glad they did that.

Fatemeh: Me, too!

7.3.2 Ji-woo and Aaron work in the same team. They're talking about management training.

Ji-woo: I want to learn more about management and eventually take my MBA.

Aaron: Did you know that our company set up a management training program last year?

Ji-woo: No, really? Is it still running?

Aaron: I think so. Talk to Sean about it. He'll know whether you can join the program or not.

Ji-woo: I will. Thanks.

7.4 be setting up (past continuous)

7.4.1 Dylan works in the student admissions department of a university. He is talking to his friend, Robert about his job.

Dylan: My job sucks.

Robert: How come? What's up?

Dylan: We're registering all the new students at the moment and the registration system is so slow. It's driving me crazy.

Robert: You told me that they were setting up a new registration system.

Dylan: I know, but it won't be ready until next year.

Robert: Too bad, man.

Dylan: I know.

7.5 be going to set up (future plan)

7.5.1 An English language teacher is speaking to her class about a new project.

Teacher: Good morning, everyone.

Students: Good morning.

Teacher: Today, I'd like to talk to you about an idea I've had to give you more opportunities to practice your English. I'm going to set up a drama club.

Student: Great. What play are we going to do?

Teacher: That's up to you all to decide.

7.6 have set up (present perfect)

7.6.1 Irene is Gabrielle's boss and is asking about a meeting.

Irene: Good morning Gabrielle. Have you already set up that meeting with Mr. Robinson?

Gabrielle: Yes, I have. But I haven't called him to confirm.

Irene: I'd be grateful if you could.

Gabrielle: Sure. No problem.

7.7 be set up (passive)

7.7.1 Chloe and Isabella work in the same office together. They work as admin staff. Isabella is the personal assistant to the director of marketing.

Isabella: Chloe I need to change the date of the meeting, but the computer won't let me do it.

Chloe: Let me see. Oh. The meeting was set up by James. You won't be able to change it. You'll have to ask him to do it.

Isabella: Really? Okay, thanks.

7.7.2 Liang and Marc are working together in the computer lab at college. They are having some problems.

Liang: Why does the network freeze so often?

Mark: I know. It's really annoying isn't it?

Liang: It's so slow it makes it hard to work.

Teacher: Sorry guys. The network was set up five years ago. It just can't cope with the number of students we have today.

Mark: It needs an upgrade.

Liang: It sure does!

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations:

1.

A: Do you play the saxophone?

B: Yeah, I do. Why do you ask?

A: I'm going to _____ a jazz band. I'm looking for a sax player. Are you interested?

B: Sure. Sounds really interesting.

A: Great! Our first rehearsal will be next Tuesday.

B: Okay. I'll be there.

2.

A: Have you _____ a meeting with David for tomorrow?

B: No, not yet.

A: You'd better hurry up. He's really busy.

B: Okay. I'll call him now.

3.

A: We're going to _____ a new recycling system at the college. Please recycle as much as possible.

B: Can we recycle paper coffee cups?

A: Unfortunately not. The paper in most coffee cups is not recyclable.

B: Why not?

A: Because it's covered in a layer of plastic.

4.

A: Do you know if this company has any management training programs?

B: Yes, I think it does. I believe they _____ a management training program last year.

5.

A: Why are all the computers so slow today?

B: I heard they're _____ a new system today so the network isn't running at full speed.

8. Set up (3)

To start a business, organization or institution

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
set/sets up	be setting up	set up	have/has set up

Separable

Verbs of similar meaning:

establish; found; create; start

8.1 set up (present tense)

8.1.1 Tarek is talking with his friends about what he wants to do after he graduates from college.

Tarek: I really want to set up a charity to help poor people back home.

William: Sounds like a great idea, Tarek. How are you going to raise money?

Tarek: I'm hoping to partner with some large foundations or other charities.

Joan: My friend works at UNICEF. I'll put you in touch, if you like.

Tarek: Wow! That'd be great. Thanks. I really need some help to set it up.

Joan: No problem.

8.1.2 James is concerned that there isn't enough student accommodation at his college. He goes to one of his professors for advice on how to complain to the college.

James: Hello professor Khan. I wonder if you could help me?

Professor: Of course. What's up?

James: I'd like to complain to the college about student accommodation.

Professor: Ok. What's the problem?

James: There isn't enough affordable student accommodation. It's way too expensive. I want the college to provide cheaper rooms.

Professor: Ok. I think it would be better if you set up a campaign group with some other students and then submit a petition to the college. The college is much more likely to listen if you do that.

James: Thanks. I will. I have some friends who will set it up with me.

Professor: No problem. Good luck!

8.2 setting up (present continuous)

8.2.1 Jack is talking to his friend Sarah on the phone about his new company. He wants Sarah to work for him.

Jack: Hi Sarah. How are you?

Sarah: Good, thanks. How about you?

Jack: Pretty good. I'm setting up a new company.

Sarah: Really? Cool. What are you going to do?

Jack: I'm going to build websites for clients. Actually, I was calling because I'd like to offer you a job. I need some help with graphic design.

Sarah: Me? Really? That would be great.

8.3 set up (past tense)

8.3.1 A father is talking to his two children about the family business.

Father: Your great grandfather set up this business more than 100 years ago. I really hope that one of you will take over from me when I retire.

Son: I'm sorry dad, but I want to be a programmer when I grow up.

Daughter: I'll take over from you dad. I'm going to make a million dollars!

Father: Maybe I should retire now?

8.3.2 Karen is taking a tour at The Henry Ford Museum. She is listening to the tour guide talk about Henry Ford's life.

Guide: Henry Ford set up the Ford Motor Company in 1903 and was famous for producing truly affordable motor cars. Any questions?

Karen: Did Henry Ford set up the company with his own money?

Guide: Good question. He set it up with the help of several investors.

Karen: I see. Thanks.

8.4 be going to set up (future plan)

8.4.1 Claire is talking to her parents about starting a new business.

Claire: Mum, dad. I've decided. I'm going to set up a catering business. I love cooking and I want to make some money from it.

Mother: I think it's a great idea.

Father: Me, too.

Mother: Have you thought about how much money you'll need to set it up?

Claire: Yes. Well.... I'm going to start small. I'm going to work from my apartment, so hopefully I won't need too much money in the beginning.

Father: Let us know if you want us to lend you some money.

Claire: Thanks, dad!

8.5 have set up (present perfect)

8.5.1 Helen is talking to a small business advisor. She wants to set up her own business but is not sure how.

Helen: Hi.

Advisor: Hi. So you want to have your own business?

Helen: Yes, that's right. I'd like some advice about how to set it up.

Advisor: Have you set up a small business before?

Helen: I've set up a really small business before to sell things online, but I'd like to set up a larger business this time and employ other people eventually.

Advisor: Sure. No problem. Let's get started.

Helen: Great!

8.6 be set up (passive)

8.6.1 Kate is taking a tour of the Smithsonian Institution.

Kate: When was the Smithsonian built?

Tour Guide: Well, it was set up in 1846 with money left by the English scientist James Smithson.

Kate: Wow. He must have donated a lot of money.

Tour Guide: Yes, indeed.

Exercises

Replace the verbs in the following conversations with "set up" in the correct form:

1.

A: Did you know that this museum was established by my great grandmother?

B: Really? That's so cool!

2.

A: I'm going to start my own business.

B: What kind of business?

A: I'm going to sell homemade cakes for children's parties

B: Have you opened a business before?

A: No. So I'm a little nervous.

B: Your cakes are delicious. I'm sure it'll be a success.

A: Thanks.

3.

A: Who established the Ford Motor Company?

B: Henry Ford started it in 1903.

A: That's a long time ago.

4.

A: Your father opened the family business when he was only twenty-one. It's now a very successful company.

B: One day I hope to take over dad's role.

5.

A: This community really needs someone to start a charity to help low-income parents get training so they can get better jobs.

B: Great idea. Why don't we start one?

9. Go on (1)

To happen/occur

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
go/goes on	be going on	went on	have/has gone on

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

happen; occur

9.1 go on (present tense)

9.1.1 Mary and Somchai are talking about their neighbors.

Mary: Have you ever seen our neighbors?

Somchai: No, I haven't. But I've heard them.

Mary: Right? Strange sounds keep coming from the house after dark.

Somchai: I know. It's scary. Who knows what goes on in that house.

Mary: Strange things go on in there. That's for sure.

9.1.2 Jo is taking a tour of a college with some other prospective students. The tour is being given by a professor from the college.

Professor: And this is the Johnson Wing.

Jo: What goes on in these labs, professor?

Professor: A great deal of excellent research goes on in there. Especially into microbiology.

Jo: Cool. Can we take a tour of the labs?

Professor: No, I'm afraid not. You need to arrange a visit in advance.

Jo: Oh well.

9.2 be going on (present continuous)

9.2.1 Freddy is at home when he hears some people arguing in the apartment next-door. He suddenly hears a woman screaming. He decides to call the police.

911 Operator: 911 what is your emergency?

Freddy: I can hear a woman screaming in the apartment next-door. I don't know what's going on in there. I'm worried somebody will get hurt.

911: Okay, sir. The police will be there shortly.

Freddy: Thank you.

9.2.2 Farah works in an office. She's eating her lunch when she notices that all of her colleagues are crowded around a computer screen. She goes over to see what they are doing.

Farah: Hey guys, what's going on?

Colleague: Look!

Farah: At what? I can't see the screen.

Colleague: Oh, sorry. Harrison Ford has crashed a plane.

Farah: No way! Is he okay?

Colleague: He's a bit bruised but they are saying he'll be okay.

Farah: Wow. He's a lucky guy.

9.3 went on (past tense)

9.3.1 Hugo and Lucas are chatting about their friend Jonas.

Hugo: Did you go to that party last week?

Lucas: No, I didn't.

Hugo: Me, neither. Jonas went though.

Lucas: Did he?

Hugo: Yep. Have you seen him with that new girl?

Lucas: Yeah. That's Jenny. She never used to talk to him before. I wonder what happened.

Hugo: Well, I don't know what went on at the party, but since then Jonas and Jenny have been very friendly.

Lucas: I think we need to go to the next party, don't you?

Hugo: Yes, I think you're right.

9.3.2 Laia is visiting a museum in London. She asks the tour guide a question.

Tour guide: And these are the Cabinet War Rooms where Winston Churchill and his government sheltered during the war.

Laia: What did they do down here?

Tour guide: We don't know exactly what went on in these rooms as the details are top secret.

Laia: I see.

9.4 be going on (past continuous)

9.4.1 Selim and Mehdi share an apartment. They are talking over breakfast.

Selim: Did you sleep well? You look really tired.

Mehdi: I got woken up at 2am. There were some really noisy people outside. Didn't you hear them?

Selim: No. What were they doing?

Mehdi: I don't know what was going on out there but when I went outside just now I saw a lot of broken glass and empty beer cans.

Selim: That sucks. Our street isn't a bar.

Mehdi: I know. I'll call the cops next time.

9.5 have been going on (present perfect continuous)

9.5.1 Rowan and Anya will soon move out of their rented apartment. The landlord has come to check the condition of the apartment before returning their deposit.

Landlord: The kitchen looks fine. Let me take a look in the bedrooms.

Rowan: Sure. Go ahead.

Landlord: There's a big red stain on the carpet under this rug. What has been going on in here? The lease says you can't host parties.

Anya: We didn't. We had an accident. I'm so sorry.

Landlord: It's pretty bad. I'm going to have to pay for a professional carpet cleaner.

Anya: Is that expensive?

Landlord: About 100 bucks.

Rowan: It's ok. My dad owns a cleaning company. I'll ask him to help.

Landlord: Ok. But I'll need to check it when he's done.

Rowan: No problem.

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations with the correct form of “go on”:

1.

A: What _____ in there?

B: That's the genetics laboratory. They research cures for cancer.

A: Cool.

2.

A: What _____ at the meeting yesterday?

B: Nothing important. You didn't miss anything.

A: Oh good.

3.

A: What was _____ in your dorm room last night? Your music kept everyone awake.

B: Oh, sorry. I few friends came over.

A: Please keep your music down.

B: Sure. Sorry.

4.

A: Hey kids! What's _____ ?

B: She took my pen and won't give it back.

A: Stop fighting with your sister. Both of you wash your hands and get ready for dinner.

5.

A: I don't know what has _____ at this company over the past year, but productivity is down and so is staff morale. As the new CEO I promise to change things for the better.

B: The board is very glad to hear that.

10. Go on (2)

To start doing a particular activity or being in a particular state

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
go/goes on	going on	went on	gone on

Nonseparable

This meaning of “go on” can involve actually going somewhere, but this is not always the case.

10.1 go on (present tense)

10.1.1 Emma and Lea are speaking about holiday plans.

Emma: I usually go on holiday once a year, but this year I need to save money for college.

Lea: I know. Me, too. But maybe we can go somewhere cheap together?

Emma: Like where?

Lea: We could stay local.

Emma: Sure. Let's talk about it over some coffee.

10.1.2 Chloe and Lucia are planning a trip to Paris.

Chloe: What shall we do when we're in Paris? Do you have any good ideas?

Lucia: I think we should definitely go on a tour.

Chloe: Sure. Of what?

Lucia: How about the Louvre?

Chloe: Good idea!

10.2 went on (past tense)

10.2.1 Ellen went to the doctor yesterday. Aya is asking her how she is.

Aya: Hi Ellen. How are you feeling?

Ellen: I'm ok. The doctor says I should go on the pill. It will help with my stomach cramps.

Aya: I went on the pill for a while, but it made me feel worse. I hope it works for you.

Ellen: Me, too.

10.2.2 Noah is talking to his friend, Feng about travelling through China.

Noah: My uncle went on a journey through China when he was young. I imagine it's changed a lot since then.

Feng: When was that?

Noah: Oh.... about twenty years ago.

Feng: Yeah. China is a completely different place now. Are you going to visit China?

Noah: I'm thinking about it. Maybe.

10.3 will go on (intention of future action)

10.3.1 Alice is concerned about her husband, William's health. His doctor has advised him to lose weight.

Alice: What are you eating now?

William: What? It's just a hot dog.

Alice: I thought the doctor told you to lose weight. It's for your health.

William: I know. I'll go on a diet after Thanksgiving. It's too difficult to go on a diet now.

Alice: Do you promise? I don't want to be a hot dog widow!

William: Ok, ok!

10.4 be going to go on (future plan)

10.4.1 Eva and Oliver are discussing their summer plans.

Eva: I'm really looking forward to summer. This year, I think I'm going to go on holiday overseas somewhere. Last year I just stayed at home.

Oliver: Nice. I'm going to go on holiday with my girlfriend.

Eva: Sounds nice. Where to?

Oliver: We haven't decided yet.

10.5 be going on (present continuous for fixed future plans)

10.5.1 Jack meets his friend Lucas for a drink in town.

Jack: Hey Lucas. How're you doing?

Lucas: Great, thanks.

Jack: You look happy.

Lucas: I know, right? Actually I just found out I'm going on TV next week.

Jack: No way! An acting job?

Lucas: Yeah, just a small one.

Jack: Congrats, man!

Lucas: Thanks.

10.5.2 Valentina wants to visit her mother this weekend so she calls her friend Ethan and asks him to feed her cat while she is away.

Ethan: Hi Val. What's up?

Valentina: Not much. How're you?

Ethan: Good thanks.

Valentina: Are you in town this weekend? I'd like to visit my mom and I need someone to feed my cat.

Ethan: Sorry, Val. I'm going on holiday this weekend for two weeks.

Valentina: Oh, that's too bad. Have a great time.

Ethan: Why don't you call Dave. I know he's in town this weekend.

Valentina: Ok. I will, thanks. Gotta go.

Ethan: No, problem. See you soon.

10.6 have gone on (present perfect)

10.6.1 Jana and Celine are talking about their holiday experiences.

Jana: Have you ever gone on a package tour?

Celine: No, I haven't. Have you?

Jana: Yeah. It's was quite good actually. They take you everywhere so you don't have to think about anything. It's quite relaxing.

Celine: True, but you don't have as much freedom.

Jana: That is true.

10.6.2 Omar and Adam are talking about going to the gym.

Omar: Have you lost weight Adam?

Adam: Yes. I've been going to the gym.

Omar: I need to lose some weight, but I hate the gym.

Adam: Have you ever gone on a diet?

Omar: Yeah, but I hated that, too.

Adam: Wow. It's going to be hard to lose weight then!

Omar: It's ok. I still have my pretty face.

Adam: Very funny.

10.7 had gone on (past perfect)

10.7.1 Stephanie and Sai are looking at some photos together.

Sai: Are these the photos from your holiday?

Stephanie: Yes, they are. Do you wanna see?

Sai: Sure.

Stephanie: This is us in front of the biggest wooden temple in Japan.

Sai: Wow. It's really big. Your face is very red. Did you get a sunburn?

Stephanie: Yeah. I'd gone on a hiking tour the day before and forgot to wear a hat. The sunburn really hurt.

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations:

1.

A: Have you ever _____ a holiday with your parents-in-law?

B: Yes, I have. It wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. They were very friendly.

A: I think you must have nicer parents-in-law than me!

2.

A: Are you in town this weekend? Let's go out for a drink with the guys.

B: No, sorry. I'm _____ a trip with my girlfriend to Philadelphia.

A: Oh well. Thought I'd ask. Another time, my friend.

B: Sure.

3.

A: What did your doctor say?

B: He said that I have to _____ a diet! It sucks.

A: Well, it's important to be healthy.

B: I know. But I love hamburgers and cheese.... and fries.

A: Just eat them once in a while.

B: That's easy for you to say. You don't like fast food.

4.

A: I love your holiday photos!

B: Thanks. This is me in China.

A: What did you do there?

B: I _____ a tour of the Forbidden City.

A: Sounds really cool.

B: It was.

5.

A: I've decided to leave New York.

B: Really? Why?

A: I'm _____ a journey through Europe for a year to see all the historic sites.

B: Wow. I wish I could go with you.

A: Why don't you?

B: I have to pay the mortgage.

A: Too bad. I'll send you some postcards.

B: Gee, thanks!

11. Go on (3)

To continue happening or doing something as before

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
go/goes on	be going on	went on	gone on

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

continue; resume

11.1 go on (present tense)

11.1.1 Eva is giving a presentation to Ryan. During the presentation Ryan's phone rings and he has to answer it.

Eva: These are the figures for next year.

Phone rings.

Ryan: I'm sorry Eva. I need to take this.

Eva: No problem.

Ryan: Hi John. Sorry. I'm in the middle of a meeting. Could I possibly call you back in 30 minutes?

John: Sure. No problem.

Ryan: Thanks. Speak to you soon. Sorry, Eva. Please go on. You were talking about the figures for next year.

Eva: Sure. Here they are.

11.1.2 Dylan is speaking with his professor about his scores. His professor isn't happy.

Professor: Dylan. You can't go on as you are. You need to work harder. Your scores need to improve.

Dylan: I know. I'm sorry. I've been partying too much this semester. I'll try harder.

Professor: This is for you, not me Dylan. You have to really want to do this.

Dylan: I know. I will.

Professor: Good. Glad to hear it. Let me know if you need any help.

Dylan: Thanks. I will.

11.1.3 Jonas is discussing his work with his boss, Caroline.

Caroline: I'm very satisfied with your progress since joining the company, Jonas.

Jonas: Thank you. Are there any areas I need to improve on?

Caroline: I think you should just go on as you are for now. You're doing fine.

Jonas: Thanks. I will.

11.1.4 Zoe is talking to her friend Irene about studying English.

Zoe: My English sucks. I really want to improve. Your English is really good, Irene. How did you get so good?

Irene: It's just practice. That's it. Go on trying and trying and gradually you'll improve.

Zoe: Good advice. I suppose I'm just impatient.

Irene: Languages really take a long time to learn. It's one of the hardest things I've ever done.

Zoe: Patience! And practice!

11.2 went on (past tense)

11.2.1 Ali is talking to Catherine about his new medicine.

Catherine: Why were you sick last week?

Ali: I was taking a new medicine and it made me feel really unwell.

Catherine: That's awful. Why didn't you stop taking the medicine?

Ali: Well, my doctor told me to take it for seven days, so I went on taking it even though I felt sick.

Catherine: You should stop taking a medicine if it's making you feel worse!

Ali: I'll know better next time.

11.2.2 Dan is talking to his friend Arav. Last night they went out drinking with some other friends. Now Arav doesn't feel well because he drank too much last night.

Dan: You don't look so good, man.

Arav: I don't feel so good either.

Dan: What time did you get home?

Arav: I don't remember. You left around eleven, right?

Dan: Yep.

Arav: We went on drinking until dawn. Oh... I feel so rough.

Dan: You know what will help?

Arav: No? What?

Dan: A big hamburger and fries for breakfast!

Arav: Oh no. I feel sick.

11.2.3 Ishan and Ori are talking about changing their cell phone contracts.

Ishan: I'm so sick of my cell phone company. They charge too much for everything and their customer service sucks.

Ori: Me, too. I went on using my last phone company for too long and wasted a lot of money. I'm going to swap to Telecorp this time, I think. They offer some good deals.

Ishan: Maybe I will too. Let's go to the mall.

11.3 will go on (decision of future action)

11.3.1 Ahmad has received a phone call from a utility company offering him a deal on his electricity.

Ahmad: Hello?

Salesperson: Hello. This is Unicorp. I'd like to talk to you about a special deal we're offering on new electricity contracts this month.

Ahmad: I'm paying about 10 cents per unit at the moment. What are you offering?

Salesperson: We are also offering 10 cents per unit, but our electricity is 100% sourced from renewable energy.

Ahmad: I see. I think I'll go on using my current utility company, thanks.

Salesperson: You can find us online, if you change your mind.

Ahmad: Thanks. I have to go now. Sorry. Bye.

11.4 be going to go on (future plan)

11.4.1 Ting is trying to write a novel, but her mother is pushing her to get a part-time job.

Mother: Have you thought about what I said yesterday?

Ting: Yes, but I need to concentrate on my novel.

Mother: So, you're not going to get a job? You're going to go on using your savings?

Ting: Yes. If I get a part-time job, I'll be too tired to write properly. This novel could make me a lot of money!

Mother: What if it doesn't make you any money? Then you'll have no savings!

Ting: Ok, ok. I'll think about it.

11.5 have gone on (present perfect)

11.5.1 Callum was supposed to join a meeting at work, but he is late because his train has broken down. Callum calls his colleague, Tristan to give him an update.

Tristan: Hi Callum.

Callum: I've been told the train will start moving again soon.

Tristan: It's ok. We've gone on without you. I'll tell you what happened in the meeting after you get here.

Callum: Ok, thanks.

Exercises

Fill in the gaps in the following conversations:

1.

A: I tried that toothpaste you recommended. It tastes really weird. Do you like the taste? My dentist recommended a different one called Brighto. You should use it.

B: Really? No, thanks. I think I'll _____ using the toothpaste I like.

2.

A: What time did you leave the office last night? It must have been really late.

B: Well, after you left I just _____ working. I don't remember exactly what time I finished, but it was very late.

A: You should take it easy today.

B: I wish I could, but I have to write another report!

3.

A: I'm afraid the funding for the project is going to be reduced by 20%.

B: Well, that's bad news, but we have to _____ with the main event. We can cut back on the number of smaller events to save money.

A: Ok. Let's do that.

4.

A: This is a slide showing how the company should grow over the next 5 years.

Phone rings

B: Hello? Sorry, I'm in a meeting at the moment. I'll call you back.
Thanks.

A: Shall I continue?

B: Yes, sorry. Please _____ .

5.

A: What's that?

B: It's a solar powered charger for my phone.

A: Why do you need that? If you _____ wasting your money, you'll
have nothing left for the vacation.

B: It's ok. This was cheap.

12. Come on (1)

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come on	not used with this meaning	not used with this meaning	not used with this meaning

Nonseparable

Phrases of similar meaning:

Come with me; Let's go

12.1 come on (present tense)

This meaning of “come on” is an instruction and is therefore only used in the present tense.

12.1.1 Hoda and Ian are going to a party. Hoda is ready to leave the house, but Ian is still getting ready. Hoda is worried because they are already late.

Hoda: Come on, Ian. We're late. Hurry up!

Ian: Ok, ok. I'm coming. Give me five minutes. I'm still shaving.

Hoda: What? Oh my God.

Ian: I'll be there in a second.

Hoda: You better be. Or I'm leaving without you!

12.1.2 Alice and Emma are in class. Alice likes a guy in the class but has never spoken to him. Emma knows the guy and offers to introduce him to Alice.

Alice: He's so cute.

Emma: Who?

Alice: The guy wearing the baseball cap.

Emma: Oh, that's Georgie. Shall I introduce you?

Alice: Are you friends?

Emma: Kind of. Come on. I'll invite him out for coffee with us.

Alice: You ask him. I'll stay here.

Emma: Don't be chicken! You're the one who likes him, not me.

Alice: Ok, ok. I'm coming.

12.1.3 Haruto and Yi share an apartment. It's Saturday and it's rainy outside. Yi wants to go out to see a movie but Haruto is feeling lazy and wants to stay home.

Yi: Hey, Haruto. Let's go see a movie. I'm bored.

Haruto: But it's raining. Let's stay home and order a pizza.

Yi: No. I want to see that new sci-fi movie on the big screen, not on our tiny TV.

Haruto: Hmmm.... maybe.

Yi puts on his coat and then throws Haruto's coat at him.

Yi: Come on. Let's go. I'll buy you some ice-cream.

Haruto: And pizza.

Yi: Ok. Pizza, too.

Haruto: Yay!

Yi: You're a really expensive date.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations.

1.

A: Hey Frank. Do you want to go to the shop with me?

B: Sure. Let me just get changed first. I'm still wearing my work clothes.

A: Ok.

10 minutes later...

A: _____ .

B: Hang on. I'll be there in a second.

A: Hurry up. The shop's gonna close soon.

2.

A: _____ ! The school bus is here.

B: But I'm still hungry, mom.

A: You've eaten two bowls of cereal already! _____ .

B: Ok.

A: Call your sister.

B: _____, Jenn. The bus is here!

A: Coming.

13. Come on (2)

Nonseparable

Phrases of similar meaning:

I don't believe you; I think you're incorrect; Tell the truth

13.1 come on (present tense)

This meaning of “come on” is only used in the present tense.

13.1.1 Ali and Ren are talking about a test they had at school.

Ali: That test was super hard.

Ren: No, it wasn't.

Ali: Yes, it was. I spent three hours studying for that test and I still found it hard.

Ren: Three hours? I only studied for ten minutes.

Ali: Ten minutes? Come on! Are you serious?

Ren: Yep.

Ali: Ok. Next test you're going to coach me, ok?

Ren: No, problem. I'll share some study techniques with you.

Ali: Thanks.

13.1.2 Tareq and Antonio are talking with some colleagues at a restaurant.

Antonio: So Tareq, what do you think of your new boss?

Tareq: He's ok. Not bad.

Antonio: Come on. He shouts at you all the time. I'm glad he's not my boss.

Tareq: He shouts a lot, but I'm learning a lot from him.

Antonio: Ok. If you say so.

13.1.3 Emily and Ahmed have just finished watching a movie together.

Emily: That was fun!

Ahmed: Come on. Really? I nearly fell asleep.

Emily: I forgot you don't like romantic comedies.

Ahmed: What comedy?

Emily: You're so unromantic. Would you have preferred a movie with lots of blood and guts?

Ahmed: Sounds good.

Emily: Maybe next time.

13.1.4 Elise is talking to her friend Gemma. Elise has received some bad news and looks very sad.

Gemma: Hi Elise. What's up? You don't look so good.

Elise: I'm ok. Really.

Gemma: Come on. Something's up. What happened?

Elise: Ok. I'll tell you. I dumped my boyfriend and now I feel really guilty.

Gemma: Oh. Well, at least it's done now.

Elise: Yeah, but I feel so mean. He's a nice guy, but I just don't love him anymore.

Gemma: That's too bad. These things happen.

13.1.5 Aya and Cheng are talking about soccer. They disagree about which team is the best.

Aya: I think Manchester United has the most talented players in the world.

Cheng: Come on! No way. Arsenal has more talented players. Manchester United's performance has been really bad lately.

Aya: Come on, that's not fair. Every team has its ups and downs.

Cheng: Or in the case of Manchester United, its downs and downs.

Aya: Whatever! You're wrong. I'm right.

Cheng: We'll see. I bet you \$10 Arsenal win the Premiership this year.

Aya: Ok, you're on!

Exercises

Use “Come on” to respond to the following statements:

1.

A: I've never seen snow before.

B: _____

A: No, seriously. I come from Indonesia and this is my first time living in a country with four seasons.

2.

A: This is the best Indian food I've ever tasted.

B: _____

A: No, really. It's delicious.

3.

A: Oh that's too sweet!

B: _____

A: I'm not really a fan of desserts.

4.

A: You look good in that shirt.

B: _____

A: Ok... maybe you should try something less tight.

B: I really need to lose weight.

5.

A: Not all politicians lie. I think our governor is pretty honest.

B: _____

A: Don't be so cynical.

14. Come on (3)

To start working (refers to machinery)

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes on	be coming on	came on	have/has come on

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

activate; turn on; switch on

14.1 come on (present tense)

14.1.1 Aicha is speaking to Ben about her computer. It isn't working properly.

Ben: So tell me again what happened?

Aicha: Well, when I press the "on" button it comes on, but then after a few seconds, it switches off again.

Ben: Ok. Let me take a look.

Aicha: Thanks. Would you like a cup of coffee or something?

Ben: That would be great, thanks.

14.1.2 Daniel has decorated his Christmas tree with some new lights and he is showing his friend, Mateo.

Daniel: Look at this Mateo. It's really cool.

Mateo: They're just Christmas lights, right?

Daniel: Wrong. Here, take this.

Mateo: What is it?

Daniel: It's a remote control.

Mateo: Ok. What do I do?

Daniel: If you press this button, the lights come on. If you press this button they change color. If you press this button, they flash. Cool, huh?

Mateo: Ok. Let me try. Yeah, that's pretty cool.

14.2 be coming on (present continuous)

14.2.1 Ethan is on the phone with his cable TV company. He's having some trouble with the cable TV box plugged into his TV.

Ethan: Hi there. My cable TV box isn't working properly.

Company: Can you tell me what happens when you switch it on please, sir?

Ethan: Sure. I'm just switching it on now. Ok, it's coming on now. The screen is saying that the TV guide is loading, but it just sits there and does nothing.

Company: Ok. I think we may need to send someone to look at the box, sir.

Ethan: When?

Company: How about tomorrow morning at 10am?

Ethan: Ok. Do you need my phone number?

Company: No, sir. I'll pass that on to the engineer.

Ethan: Ok. Thanks.

Company: Thank you and apologies for the trouble this is causing you, sir.

Ethan: No, problem. Thanks.

14.3 came on (past tense)

14.3.1 Valentina is telling her friend, Ning, about a concert she went to.

Ning: So, how was that concert you went to last week?

Valentina: Oh, it was really awesome.

Ning: Where was it?

Valentina: At the stadium. The special effects were really impressive. The show started in complete darkness and then these really bright spotlights came on suddenly when the band started playing. And there were tons of pyrotechnics. It was so cool.

Ning: Pyrotechnics? Sounds exciting. Maybe I'll come with you next time.

Valentina: Sure. You bet.

14.3.2 Adam has taken his car to the garage to be checked.

Adam: Hi there. I called. When I was driving, my car's engine warning light came on.

Mechanic: Yeah. I remember. Have you filled up the car with oil recently?

Adam: Yes. Just last week. That's why I wanted to have the engine checked.

Mechanic: Ok. Pop open the hood. Let's take a look.

Adam: Sure.

14.4 will come on (future prediction)

14.4.1 Maria has called her mother on the phone and is explaining to her mother how to use video chat.

Maria: So mom, have you switched on the computer?

Mom: Yes. What do I do next?

Maria: Open the video chat program.

Mom: Ok. Done that.

Maria: Now, click on the picture of me and you will video call me.

Mom: Ok. Here we go.

Maria: Ok. I can hear you, but I can't see you.

Mom: Oh.

Maria: Can you see a little picture of a video camera?

Mom: No.... oh wait. Yes. Shall I click on it?

Maria: Yes. If you click on it, the webcam will come on.

Mom: Here we go.

Maria: Great. Now I can see you!

14.4.2 Gabriel is talking to a security systems salesperson. The salesperson is trying to convince Gabriel to buy a security system.

Gabriel: So why should I buy your system?

Salesperson: It's a very good system. We put multiple sensors around the outside of your house and if anyone comes within 20 feet of the house, the security lights will come on.

Gabriel: How much is the system?

Salesperson: It depends on the size of your house and how many sensors we need to install.

Gabriel: I have a small two bedroom house with a front yard, but no back yard.

Salesperson: It would probably cost about \$2,000.

Gabriel: I think that's a bit out of my price range.

Salesperson: Well, if you change your mind, give me a call and maybe I can get you a discount. Here's my card.

Gabriel: Thanks. I will.

14.5 have come on (present perfect)

14.5.1 Nicola is calling her internet service provider because she is having problems connecting to her wireless router.

Nicola: Hello. I can't connect to my wifi network. I was hoping you could help me.

Technician: Yes, of course. I need to ask a few questions first to check that everything is working as it should.

Nicola: Sure.

Technician: Please switch off your wireless router, wait ten seconds and then switch it back on again.

Nicola: Ok..... Right, I've switched it back on.

Technician: Has the light labelled "internet" come on?

Nicola: Yes. It's green.

Technician: That's good. Has the light labelled "network" come on?

Nicola: No. It hasn't come on yet..... Wait. It's come on, but, it's red, not green.

Technician: Ok. It seems that there may be a software problem with the router.

Nicola: Oh no.

-

Exercises

Complete the following conversations using the correct form of “come on”:

1.

A: Hey. Where's your car?

B: Oh. I had to take it to the garage.

A: What happened?

B: The “check engine” light _____ so I got worried.

2.

A: I hate our neighbor's security lights.

B: Why?

A: They _____ every time a cat walks near her house.

B: Does that happen a lot?

A: All the time. And the lights shine right into my bedroom.

3.

A: What does this switch do?

B: If you press that, all the lights will _____.

A: Oh, ok. I won't press it then.

4.

A: Is that IT support?

B: Yes. How can I help?

A: My computer won't start properly.

B: Ok. Please switch on your computer.

A: Ok.

B: Has it _____ ok?

A: It's _____ now. Oh no. It's switched itself off again.

5.

A: Why has this light _____ ?

B: It means the battery is getting low.

A: And this light?

B: That light _____ when the memory card is full.

A: I see.

15. Find out (1)

To discover a fact or piece of information

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
find/finds out	be finding out	found out	have/has found out

Separable

Verbs of similar meaning:

discover; learn; hear

15.1 find out (present tense)

15.1.1 Juan and Arthur are trying to understand how to install a new printer.

Juan: The manual that comes with the printer is really bad.

Arthur: Let me see.

Juan: Maybe we should just plug it into the computer.

Arthur: Let's Google it. I'm sure we can find out how to install it online.

Juan: Good idea. You're so smart. You always know how to find things out.

Arthur: No. Google is smart, not me!

15.1.2 Ethan is talking on the phone to the receptionist at his university. He wants to know who he needs to talk to about scholarship programs.

Receptionist: Hello. John Brown College. How can I help?

Ethan: Hello. I'd like to know who to talk to about your scholarship programs.

Receptionist: Just a second. I'll put you through.

Ethan: Thanks.

Admissions Officer: Hello. Student Admissions.

Ethan: Hello. I'm trying to find out more about your scholarship programs.

Admissions Officer: I see. I'm sure I can help.

Ethan: Great. Thanks.

15.1.3 Maxim and his friend John are at a party. Maxim sees John kissing a girl who is not his girlfriend. Maxim approaches John.

Maxim: Hey John. What are you doing?

John: Nothing! It was just a kiss.

Maxim: If your girlfriend finds out, you'll be in big trouble.

John: So don't tell her.

Maxim: I won't need to. I think you just kissed one of her friends.

John: Seriously?! Damn.

15.1.4 Mary is speaking to Tanya on the phone. She's inviting her to a party.

Mary: Hi Tanya. d

Tanya: Sounds fun. Where is it?

Mary: It's somewhere near the city center. I have to find out how to get there from Rob.

Tanya: Ok. What time?

Mary: I'll pick you up at eight.

Tanya: Cool. See ya then.

Mary: See ya.

15.2 be finding out (present continuous)

15.2.1 Marc and Yasmine are at a train station. They need to catch a train home.

Yasmine: Hey Marc, there's a timetable over here. Marc !

Marc: What? I'm just finding out what time our next train is on my phone.

Yasmine: Oh ok. Do we have time to grab a coffee for the journey?

Marc: Yep. Next train is in 20 minutes, so plenty of time.

Yasmine: Let's go.

15.2.2 Hannah and Sophie are out with a group of friends. They are trying to find a new restaurant.

Hannah: Where did Claire go?

Sophie: I think she's finding out where the restaurant is. It's too new to be on Google maps so she's gone to ask people.

Hannah: By herself?

Sophie: No, she went with Ethan.

Hannah: Let's give her a call.

Sophie: She said she'd call when they'd found it.

Hannah: Ok.

15.3 found out (past tense)

15.3.1 Lena and Nina are talking about their favourite TV show.

Lena: Nina. Have you watched the latest episode of *Love in New York* ?

Nina: Yes ! It was amazing.

Lena: I was so shocked when I found out John was having an affair with Jasmine.

Nina: I know. He's not even handsome. Why would Jasmine risk everything?

Lena: Well, love is blind, you know. I'm not surprised she didn't find it out.

Nina: I guess you're right.

15.3.2 Olivia is talking to Jack about a recent news story.

Olivia: Did you see the news last night?

Jack: No, why?

Olivia: They found out who stole all those diamonds.

Jack: Who was it?

Olivia: A gang from London. They stole about two hundred million pounds' worth of diamonds.

Jack: Wow! That's a lot.

15.3.3 Josh is talking to his friend Martina about her broken bicycle.

Josh: Hey Martina.

Martina: Hey Josh. What's up?

Josh: Not much. I found out where you can get your bike fixed for twenty bucks.

Martina: That's cheap! Great. Where?

Josh: A friend of a friend owns a bike repair business. I'll give you his number.

Martina: Cool. Thanks a lot.

Josh: No problem. You're welcome.

15.4 be finding out (past continuous)

15.4.1 John Paul is talking to Adam about his last job.

John Paul: Where did you work before you came here?

Adam: I worked for a tax accountant.

John Paul: Sounds pretty dry.

Adam: I enjoyed it actually.

John Paul: So why did you leave?

Adam: Well, I was finding out a lot of interesting things about tax, but I didn't get on well with my boss. He was very difficult.

John Paul: That's too bad.

Adam: Anyway, I prefer working here.

John Paul: That's good.

15.5 will find out (future prediction)

15.5.1 Yuuma is talking to Daniel about his exam results.

Yuuma: I'm really anxious about my exam results.

Daniel: You shouldn't be. You're a really smart guy.

Yuuma: Thanks, but these exams are a really big deal. If I don't do well, I won't be able to go to the university I want to.

Daniel: When will you find out the results?

Yuuma: I'll find out next Monday.

Daniel: Good luck.

Yuuma: Thanks.

15.6 will find out (future intention)

15.6.1 Adam and George are discussing dinner plans.

Adam: Hey George. Fancy going out to eat tonight?

George: Sure. Wanna invite Sarah and Kelly?

Adam: Sounds good.

George: Ok. I'll find out if they're free tonight.

Adam: You should call Sarah. She always takes ages to answer texts.

George: Ok. I'll call her now.

15.7 have found out (present perfect)

15.7.1 Emily is speaking with her colleague, Tess on the phone.

Emily: Hi Tess. Who is coming to the meeting with Venture Systems tomorrow?

Tess: I haven't heard from John, yet. I'll email you a list when I've found out who's coming.

Emily: Great. Thanks.

Tess: No problem.

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations with the correct form of “find out”:

1.

A: How can I _____ where to buy organic eggs near here?

B: I'd just Google it or use Siri.

A: Ok. I'll do that.

2.

A: What have you done? That was mom's favorite cup.

B: It was an accident. I didn't mean to break it.

A: When she _____, she's going to get so mad.

3.

A: Hey, do you fancy going to see a movie?

B: Sure. I'll _____ what's on.

4.

A: Dave's girlfriend _____ he's been cheating on her!

B: No way! I'm shocked. I didn't think Dave would do something like that.

5.

A: Which of the famous sites are we going to see today?

B: I thought we could go to the Acropolis.

A: Sounds good. How do we get there from here?

B: I'm not sure. I've _____ the times of buses leaving the hotel, but I need to ask the front desk which bus we should catch.

16. Come from (1)

To have been born in a particular place

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes from	not used with this meaning	came from	have/has come from

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

be born in; originate from

16.1 come from (present tense)

16.1.1 Hugo and Louis go to the same English class together. They are meeting for the first time.

Hugo: Hi. Nice to meet you. I'm Hugo.

Louis: Nice to meet you. I'm Louis.

Hugo: Where do you come from?

Louis: I come from Belgium. How about you?

Hugo: I come from Finland.

16.1.2 Jacob and Jonas are talking about a woman in their class.

Jacob: Where's Hannah from?

Jonas: I think she comes from Germany. I've never asked her.

Jacob: Germany? Really? She doesn't sound German.

16.2 came from (past tense)

16.2.1 Lucas and Maria both come from the United States, but their grandparents were born overseas. They are talking about this.

Lucas: Where did your grandparents come from?

Maria: My mom's parents were born in the US, but my dad's parents came from Turkey. How about you?

Lucas: I think all my grandparents came from Germany. They came here to escape the Nazis.

Maria: I see.

16.3 have come from (present perfect)

16.3.1 David and John work in the student admissions office of a college. They are analyzing some data about student numbers.

David: Where have the majority of EFL students come from over the past five years?

John: The majority have come from European countries, but a lot have also come from Asia.

David: I see. How many students have come from Asia over the past five years?

John: Six hundred and thirty students have come from Asia since 2010.

David: That's a lot.

John: Yes, it is.

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations with the correct form of “come from”:

1.

A: Did your grandparents come from overseas? Mine did.

B: Well, my dad's parents _____ Greece.

A: Do you visit your relatives in Greece?

B: Sure do. Every summer.

A: Wow. That must be nice.

2.

A: Does anybody in our class _____ China?

B: Yes. I do. I _____ Beijing.

C: I also _____ China.

3.

A: Many famous scientists in the United States have _____ overseas. They were immigrants.

B: Like who?

A: Like... Einstein. He _____ Germany.

B: I see. That's really interesting.

17. Come from (2)

To have your home in a particular place

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes from	not used with this meaning	not used with this meaning	not used with this meaning

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

live in; reside in

17.1 come from (present tense)

17.1.1 John and Fred have met at a friend's party.

John: Hi. Nice to meet you. I'm John.

Fred: Good to meet you. I'm Fred.

John: Are you a friend of Amy's?

Fred: Yep. We work at the coffee shop together.

John: Oh right. Do you live locally?

Fred: Kind of. I come from San Mateo. Grew up there.

John: Cool.

17.1.2 Daniel is backpacking in Europe. He gets talking to some people in the youth hostel who are also backpacking.

Daniel: Hi. I'm Daniel.

Alexander: I'm Alexander. Nice to meet you.

Janet: I'm Janet.

Daniel: Are you backpacking too?

Alexander: Yep. Going to Paris tomorrow. How about you?

Daniel: I'm staying here in Berlin for a few more days.

Janet: I like Berlin. It's really cool.

Alexander: Where are you from? I can't place your accent?

Daniel: I come from London, but I spent some time growing up in Hong Kong so my accent is a little unusual.

Janet: Cool! I've always wanted to go to Hong Kong.

Daniel: You should go. The food is amazing.

Janet: I come from Malmo in Sweden and Alexander comes from Copenhagen.

Daniel: I'd love to go there, too!

-

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations:

1.

A: Do you _____ New York?

B: No. I _____ Boston.

A: Really? From your accent, I would guess New York.

B: No. I've lived in Boston all my life.

2.

A: A friend of mine _____ Mexico City. I'm thinking of visiting her next summer.

B: Really? Can I come, too? I've always wanted to go there.

A: Sure. That would be so much fun!

3.

A: My friend John _____ London so I'm going to ask him for some advice about my vacation to the UK.

B: I went to London last year. It was so cool. My cousin _____ from London. My dad's sister married a Brit.

18. Come from (3)

To originate in a particular person, place, or thing

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes from	be coming from	came from	have/has come from

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

made from; derived from

18.1 come from (present tense)

18.1.1 Paul and Arthur are talking about medicines..

Paul: Did you know that aspirin comes from tree bark?

Arthur: Yes, that's true. But these days it's made in drug factories.

Paul: I see.

18.1.2 Claire and Dave are talking about chocolate.

Dave: Chocolate is made from cocoa, right?

Claire: Yeah, that's right. Why?

Dave: Well, where does cocoa come from?

Claire: Cocoa comes from the seeds of the cacao tree.

Dave: Wow. You're really knowledgeable.

Claire: I know everything about chocolate!

18.1.3 James and Ellen are talking about their design project.

James: You always have such good ideas for projects.

Ellen: Really? I don't think so.

James: Do your ideas just come naturally to you?

Ellen: No. It's a process. Good ideas usually come from a lot of thought and hard work.

18.2 be coming from (present continuous)

18.2.1 Juan and Chloe are sitting at home watching TV when they hear a strange sound.

Juan: Can you hear that?

Chloe: That strange tapping sound?

Juan: Yeah. Where's it coming from?

Chloe: I think it's coming from the window. I'm scared.

Juan: I'll open the curtains.

Chloe: Ok.

Juan: Oh. It's hail. It's hitting the window.

18.2.2 Mary and Ning are sitting in the office. Mary is complaining of being cold.

Mary: Why's it so cold in here?

Ning: I can feel a cold draft.

Mary: Where's it coming from?

Ning: I'm not sure. It feels like it's coming from the ceiling.

18.3 came from (past tense)

18.3.1 Ethan and Valentina are talking about history.

Ethan: Was paper invented in Europe?

Valentina: I don't think so. I think it came from China originally.

Ethan: When?

Valentina: Oh... I don't know. Maybe a couple of thousand years ago?

Ethan: Wow. Really?

18.3.2 Hassan is learning about physics with his teacher.

Teacher: Our current understanding of the universe came from Einstein's theory of general relativity.

Hassan: I've heard of that. What did Einstein say?

Teacher: His theory says that space isn't flat. Space is curved.

Hassan: Wow. That's difficult to imagine.

18.4 have come from (present perfect)

18.4.1 Ali is studying about medicine with his teacher.

Teacher: Throughout human history a large number of medicines have come from plant extracts.

Ali: For example?

Teacher: Aspirin, for example. And many anesthetics that are used in surgery.

Ali: What's an anesthetic?

Teacher: It's a medicine which makes you unconscious so that you can have an operation without feeling pain.

18.4.2 Gabriel and Adam are talking about inventions.

Gabriel: I think the best invention ever is the television.

Adam: I think it's the airplane.

Gabriel: I think you have to be a genius to be an inventor.

Adam: I'm not sure. I think the best inventions in history have come from hard thinking and hard work.

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations using the correct form of “come from”:

1.

A: Is this medicine man-made?

B: Yes, it is. But it originally _____ a plant extract.

A: Which plant?

B: A type of tree that grows in the tropics.

2.

A: My son asked me where babies _____ . I don't know how to answer him.

B: How old is he?

A: Five.

B: Maybe you should get him a picture book about it.

3.

A: Our knowledge of this ancient city _____ the writings of the Greek historian Herodotus.

B: When did he live?

A: Over two thousand years ago.

4.

A: Can you hear that strange sound?

B: No. What kind of sound?

A: A strange ringing sound. It's _____ outside, I think.

B: No, I can't hear anything.

5.

A: Wow. The air pollution today in London is really bad.

B: I know. Apparently it's _____ France.

A: Really? I thought it was just because of all the cars in London.

B: I heard it was because of the weather conditions. The wind has blown smog from Paris toward London.

19. Come from (4)

To belong to a particular type of family or social group

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes from	not used with this meaning	came from	have/has come from

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

belong to; be part of

19.1 come from (present tense)

19.1.1 Habib and Ning are talking about marriage.

Habib: I don't want to get married.

Ning: Why not? I think marriage is great. My grandparents have been married for 40 years!

Habib: Wow. I don't know. I like my freedom.

Ning: Maybe you'll feel differently when you're older.

Habib: Maybe. Are you going to marry someone Chinese?

Ning: Well, I'm Chinese and I come from quite a traditional family so I think my parents would prefer it if I married someone Chinese.

Habib: I see.

19.1.2 Mohammad and Maria are talking about a friend of theirs.

Mohammad: Did you see David's new car? It's a Ferrari!

Maria: Really? Wow. They're so expensive.

Mohammad: Yeah. How can he afford that?

Maria: I think he comes from a rich family.

Mohammad: An extremely rich family.

Maria: I guess so. Or maybe he won the lotto. We should ask him!

Mohammad: Good idea.

19.2 came from (past tense)

19.2.1 Tobias and John are looking for volunteer work with a charity.

Tobias: How about the “Young People’s Business Trust”? It sounds really interesting.

John: What do they do?

Tobias: They help high school students who come from poor communities by giving them business experience. They want to help some students become future entrepreneurs.

John: Sounds like a great charity.

Tobias: It says online that their founder originally came from a community with a lot of gang problems.

John: Well, he should know what he’s talking about then.

19.2.2 Justin is talking to his history professor about university.

Justin: So how has university changed over the last one hundred years?

Professor: Well, a century ago, the majority of students came from very similar backgrounds. They were white and wealthy.

Justin: I see. And now?

Professor: As you can see at our university, nowadays students come from many different communities and there are many on academic and athletic scholarships who come from poorer families.

Justin: So, is the modern system fairer?

Professor: Yes, a little, in my opinion. But, others would disagree.

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations with the correct form of “come from”:

1.

A: Does John _____ a wealthy family?

B: Why do you ask?

A: I've seen him driving a very expensive car.

B: No. I don't think so. Maybe he was just renting it.

2.

A: I don't think many kids from poor neighborhoods do well at school.

B: Really? I _____ a poor neighborhood and quite a lot of kids in my class ended up going to college. I went to Harvard.

3.

A: My grandfather _____ quite a religious family. He was quite shocked when I started living with my girlfriend.

B: Why?

A: Because we weren't married first.

B: Oh, I see. “Living in sin” as they say!

A: Exactly.

20. Come from (5)

To have something as an origin

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes from	not used with this meaning	came from	have/has come from

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

originate from; derive from

20.1 come from (present tense)

20.1.1 Emily and Cooper are discussing the word “ergo”.

Emily: What does “ergo” mean? I’ve heard it before, but I’ve forgotten what it means.

Cooper: I think it comes from Latin originally. It means “therefore”.

Emily: Oh yes. That’s it. Thanks.

Cooper: No problem.

20.1.2 Daniel and Claire are talking about their names.

Daniel: What does your name mean, Claire?

Claire: I think it comes from Latin. It means “bright” or “clear”. How about your name?

Daniel: My name comes from Hebrew. It means “God is my judge” apparently.

Claire: Interesting.

Daniel: Yeah. I’m not religious, but I like my name.

20.2 came from (past tense)

20.2.1 George is talking to his art professor about art history.

George: So Michelangelo painted a lot of the beautiful paintings in the Vatican, right?

Professor: Yes, that's right.

George: Was he totally original?

Professor: Not, exactly. Some of his ideas came from ancient Greek art, especially sculpture.

George: I see.

20.2.2 Eva is taking a history class about the 20th Century.

Professor: Who has heard of Thomas Edison?

Eva: Sure. He was an inventor.

Professor: What did he invent?

Eva: I think he invented the light bulb.

Professor: That's right. He invented the world's first long-lasting light bulb. Some people say that his inspiration came from his fear of the dark!

Eva: Really? Interesting.

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations with the correct form of “come from”:

1.

A: Where did your idea for this robotics project _____ ?

B: It _____ nature.

A: How do you mean?

B: Well, I observed how insects fly and I had the idea of building a tiny robot that could fly in the same way.

A: That's really cool.

2.

A: Does your name _____ Latin?

B: I really have no idea. I've never thought about it.

A: My name _____ Hebrew.

B: Really? Maybe I'll research my name online and find out where it

21. Come from (6)

To be the result of something, or the result of doing something

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes from	not used with this meaning	came from	have/has come from

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

result from; stem from

21.1 come from (present tense)

21.1.1 Jayden is talking with his mother about his studies.

Jayden: Mom. I'm so sick of studying. My brain hurts.

Mother: Jayden. You know that success comes from hard work. It's not about luck. You have to make opportunities for yourself. The best way to do that is to study hard.

Jayden: I know, I know. It's just so hard sometimes.

Mother: Working your whole life in a dead-end job you hate is hard. Studying is a pleasure.

Jayden: Ok, Mom. I'll get back to my books.

21.1.2 William is talking to a financial advisor about investing his savings.

William: So, I'm interested in investing some of my savings. What stocks can you recommend?

Advisor: Well, I think the best returns come from investing in Blue Chip companies.

William: Blue Chip?

Advisor: It means that they are nationally recognized, well-established companies.

William: I see. I think I'd like to invest some money in Blue Chip stocks, in that case.

Advisor: Of course.

21.1.3 David is learning to drive. He is taking a practice driving test with his driving instructor.

Instructor: Ok. I'm sorry, but you didn't pass the practice test.

David: Damn. Why not? I thought I did ok this time.

Instructor: The mistakes you made come from being impatient. You just need to relax when you're driving and try not to take risks..

David: Ok. I'll try.

21.2 came from (past tense)

21.2.1 Jim is speaking at an office meeting. He is talking about the company sales from last year.

Jim: This slide shows our sales performance last year.

Hiroko: Where did the majority of our profits come from?

Jim: Most of our profits came from our new products.

Hiroko: That's great news.

Jim: It certainly is.

21.2.2 Tom is interviewing a successful local businessman, Mr. Chang, for his college news website.

Tom: Mr. Chang. Thank you for agreeing to speak with me.

Mr. Chang: No problem.

Tom: Can you tell me where your interest in business came from?

Mr. Chang: I think my interest in business came from working in my father's shop in Hong Kong when I was a kid. I found it so interesting, I wanted to open my own shop when I grew up.

Tom: Did you?

Mr. Chang: Well, after college, I set up a trading company. I imported Chinese goods and sold them here in the USA.

Tom: That's very interesting.

21.3 have come from (present perfect)

21.3.1 Shabnam is a professional fashion designer. She has come to Farida's art college to talk to the students.

Farida: Where do you get your best design ideas from?

Shabnam: I think my best ideas have always come from looking at past fashions while also talking to people about what they like. I try to combine these two things in my new designs.

Farida: That's so cool.

Shabnam: I'm glad you think so.

21.3.2 Simon is in an American history class.

History teacher: Let's talk about civil rights. How did African Americans get civil rights in this country?

Simon: They had to fight for them.

Teacher: Indeed. Civil rights have come from people protesting and demanding equality.

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations with the correct form of “come from”:

1.

A: The company lost a lot of money last year.

B: Where did the majority of the losses come from?

A: Most of the losses _____ selling a new product which wasn't popular.

2.

A: As an experienced business person, what advice do you have for young people thinking of starting a business?

B: Well, over the past 30 years, most of my failures have _____ trying to sell something that people didn't want. So my advice is to do your homework. Find out what people want.

A: I see. That's very helpful.

3.

A: What's the best way to be happy?

B: I think happiness _____ spending time with people you love. It's that simple.

4.

A: Your mistakes _____ being careless. You just need to concentrate harder.

B: Really? I was concentrating.

5.

A: Why is he so confident?

B: I think his confidence _____ him being so experienced.

22. Come in (1)

To enter a room, building, or other place where the speaker is located

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes in	be coming in	came in	have/has come in

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

enter

22.1 come in/into (present tense)

22.1.1 Mason has gone to his friend, Sophia's apartment. He knocks on the apartment door.

Sophia: (Shouting from inside the apartment) Come in! It's open.

Mason: Ok.

Sophia: Hi Mason. How're you doing?

Mason: I'm good. How're you?

Sophia: Pretty good.

22.1.2 Valentina and Julia share an apartment. It is summer and it's very hot. Valentina wants to open the windows in the living room.

Julia: Please don't open the windows.

Valentina: But, it's so hot in here.

Julia: I know. But, whenever we open the windows mosquitoes come in.

Valentina: If we don't open the windows we'll melt!

Julia: Ok. But be careful they don't bite you.

22.2 be coming in (present continuous)

22.2.1 Emma has made dinner for her friends. They are eating at her apartment.

Emma: How's the food everyone?

Ning: It's delicious Emma.

Emma: I'm so glad you like it.

Ning: Is it cold in here? Is it just me?

Emma: It is quite cold. Oh look, the window isn't closed properly. A cold draft is coming in from outside.

Ning: Oh yeah. I'll close the window.

Emma: Thanks.

22.2.2 Kevin and Mohammad are discussing immigration.

Mohammad: I think there are already too many immigrants coming into the country. There aren't enough jobs for everyone.

Kevin: Don't forget that both your parents and my parents were also immigrants.

Mohammad: I understand that, but if there aren't enough jobs or houses there's going to be trouble.

Kevin: We need to make more jobs and build houses.

22.3 came in (past tense)

22.3.1 Aya and Gabrielle are talking about work. They both work at the same coffee shop.

Aya: You'll never guess who came into the coffee shop yesterday.

Gabrielle: Someone famous?

Aya: Yes!

Gabrielle: Oh, I don't know. Was it a movie star?

Aya: Yes!

Gabrielle: I have no idea. Who?

Aya: It was Ethan Hawke!

Gabrielle: Did you get an autograph?

Aya: No. He was with some friends. I didn't want to disturb him.

Gabrielle: You're so polite. I would have asked for his autograph.

23.3.2 Omar and Ava are friends who work in the same office.

Omar: Ava. I think I'm in trouble again.

Ava: What did you do this time?

Omar: Well, I was in my office looking at Facebook when the CEO came in. She didn't look very happy.

Ava: Oh. Maybe you'll just get a warning.

Omar: I hope so. I need this job.

23.4 be coming in (past progressive)

23.4.1 Daniel shares an apartment with his friend Michael. Daniel comes home to find a bucket in his bedroom. He asks Michael about it

Daniel: Hey, Michael. Why is there a bucket in my room?

Michael: Oh yeah. It was raining really hard and water was coming in through the ceiling.

Daniel: We should call the landlord. He needs to fix the leak.

Michael: I already called him.

Daniel: Okay, thanks.

23.4.2 Jane works as a teacher at an elementary school. Today she directed the school play. She is at home talking to her husband about the play.

Jane: Oh my God. The play was nearly a disaster.

Husband: Why? What happened?

Jane: When the parents were coming in to sit down, there was a power cut!

Husband: Oh no!

Jane: Thankfully, the power came back on just before we were supposed to start.

Husband: Do you think one of the kids turned off the power?

Jane: Very funny. The kids are five years old.

23.5 will come in (future prediction)

23.5.1 Karen lives near the beach. Her sister Emily is visiting with her.

Karen: Hey Emily. Don't leave the back door open.

Emily: Why not?

Karen: The seagulls will come in.

Emily: Really? They're brave.

Karen: Yeah, and hungry.

Emily: Ok. I'll keep it shut.

23.5.2 Jing is visiting her mother's house.

Jing: Mom. It's getting dark. Where is your cat? Does he stay out at night?

Mom: Don't worry. He'll come in when he gets hungry.

Jing: Oh, ok.

23.6 have come in (present perfect)

23.6.1 Mr. Smith and Ms. Kim are teachers at a community college. It is winter and the weather is very bad today. It's snowing and the wind is very strong.

Mr. Smith: Ms. Kim, have your students come in yet?

Ms. Kim: About half of them have come in, but many of them haven't come in because the weather is so bad today.

Mr. Smith: The college should close for the day. It's dangerous for students to be driving in these conditions

Ms. Kim: I agree.

-

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: (Knocking on door). Hello. Mr. Smith. Are you there?

B: Please _____. The door's not locked.

A: Ok.

2.

A: Why did you get a cat?

B: Well, I like cats, but to be honest, there were so many pigeons _____ the garden and crapping everywhere so we decided to get a cat to scare them away!

A: Did it work?

B: Yep. Like a dream.

3.

A: Hey, John. Did you close the kitchen window?

B: Yes. There was a cold draught _____.

A: Oh sorry. I'd left it open for the cat.

4.

A: I was so embarrassed yesterday.

B: Why? What happened?

A: I was in my bedroom with my girlfriend when my mum suddenly _____ without knocking first.

B: Why is that a problem?

A: We weren't wearing any clothes.

B: Oh. I see.

5.

A: Please don't leave this window open.

B: Why not? It's so hot today.

A: Because the mosquitoes _____ and bite us!

B: Ok. I think we need to buy an AC.

A: An air conditioner? Start saving!

23. Come in (2)

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes in	be coming in	came in	have/has come in

Nonseparable

Phrases of similar meaning:

come to work; be at work

23.1 come in (present tense)

23.1.1 Jayden is at work. He receives a phone call from Claire Jones.

Jayden: Hello. Jayden Smith.

Claire: Hi. My name is Claire Jones. Could I speak with David Johnson please?

Jayden: I'm sorry. David usually comes in at around 9:30. Can I take a message?

Claire: I see. It's ok thanks. I'll call back later. Thank you.

Jayden: No problem. Bye.

Claire: Bye.

23.1.2 Linda is speaking with a client of hers on the phone about meeting.

Linda: When can you come to my office, Mr. Shepherd?

Mr. Shepherd: How about Friday afternoon?

Linda: Oh, I'm sorry. I don't usually come in on Fridays. I work from home. How about Thursday afternoon?

Mr. Shepherd: That works. How about 2pm?

Linda: Perfect. See you then. Thanks.

Mr. Shepherd: See you Thursday.

23.2 be coming in (present progressive)

23.2.1 Wei receives a call from his boss. Wei is late for work.

Wei: Hello. Wei Lim speaking.

Boss: Hi Wei. It's Joan. Are you coming in?

Wei: Yes. Sorry. I'm stuck in traffic. I should be there in about twenty minutes.

Boss: Ok. Please call next time if you think you're going to be late.

Wei: Of course. Sorry.

23.3 came in (past tense)

23.3.1 Madison and Anya work in the same office. They are chatting at lunchtime.

Madison: I felt so dumb yesterday.

Anya: How come? What did you do?

Madison: Well, I came in yesterday and when I walked into the office I suddenly realized it was a bank holiday. There was nobody there.

Anya: Ha ha. Automatic pilot, huh?

Madison: Yeah.

23.3.2 Feng's boss is asking some questions about her work schedule.

Boss: I didn't see you last Friday. Did you come in?

Feng: No, I didn't. I took a day off.

Boss: I didn't see you yesterday either.

Feng: I came in yesterday, but I was in meetings all day.

Boss: Ok. That's why I didn't see you.

23.4 will come in (future offer of help)

23.4.1 Jenn works at a home for senior citizens. Today is her day off, but her boss, Natalie, calls her and asks her to work because they don't have enough staff today.

Jenn: Hello.

Natalie: Hi Jenn. It's Natalie.

Jenn: Hi Natalie. What's up?

Natalie: Wayne is sick today. Will you come in?

Jenn: But, it's my day off today.

Natalie: I know. I'll pay you extra.

Jenn: Ok. Ok. I'll come in. See you soon.

Natalie: Thanks Jenn. You're a lifesaver.

Jenn: No problem. See you.

23.5 be going to come in (future plan)

23.5.1 Michael's personal assistant, Pam, calls him to find out when he is going to come to the office.

Michael: Hello?

Pam: Hi Michael. It's Pam.

Michael: What's up Pam?

Pam: Are you going to come in this afternoon? There are some documents that need your signature.

Michael: Yes. I'm going to come in after lunch.

Pam: Ok. See you then.

Michael: See you.

23.6 be coming in (present continuous for fixed plans)

23.6.1 Pam takes a phone call from a client of Michael's. The client wants to meet with Michael.

Pam: Hello. Michael Paynter's phone. Can I help?

Client: Hello. Can I speak with Michael please?

Pam: I'm afraid he's away on business today. Can I take a message?

Client: It's ok. I'd like to talk to him to arrange a meeting. When will he be in the office next?

Pam: He's coming in tomorrow.

Client: Ok. I'll give him a call then.

Pam: Do you mind if I ask who's calling?

Client: It's Hilary Johnson from Climatech.

Pam: Ok. I'll let him know you called.

Client: Thanks. Bye.

Pam: Bye.

23.7 have come in (present perfect)

23.7.1 There is a strike and the subway and buses have been disrupted. People are finding it difficult to get to work. Robert is a manager at an office and he is talking to one of the other managers, Will.

Robert: Have your guys come in yet?

Will: About half of them have come in already, but I'm still waiting for quite a few.

Robert: Same here. With this strike we'll be lucky if we get anything done today.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: Did Ahmed _____ yesterday?

B: I don't know. You should ask his manager.

A: Ok. I will.

2.

A: I _____ last Friday, but I didn't _____ yesterday because I took a day off.

B: Ok. Please update your paid vacation record.

3.

A: Hi Claire. We're really short of staff today. Could you _____ for a few hours?

B: But, it's my day off.

A: I know. But I wouldn't ask unless we were desperate.

B: Ok. But just three hours, ok?

A: Ok.

4.

A: Ms. Smith, are you going to _____ this afternoon? A client called who'd like to set up a meeting today, if possible.

B: No, I'm not. I'm _____ tomorrow though. Could you please call back the client and try to set up a meeting with them tomorrow instead?

A: Sure. No problem.

B: Thanks. See you tomorrow.

5.

A: Has anyone seen Dave this morning?

B: No, I haven't. I don't think he has _____ yet.

C: He did say he was having some problems with his car yesterday.

A: Ok. I'll call his cell. Thanks.

24. Come in (3)

To arrive at a station, airport or port - for vehicles, especially trains, buses and airplanes

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes in	be coming in	came in	have/has come in

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

arrive; land; dock

24.1 come in (present tense)

24.1.1 Selim is talking to a member of staff at the train station.

Selim: What time is the next train to Boston?

Staff: Well, the train comes in at 10:05, but it doesn't leave for Boston until 10:30. You can board from 10:20.

Selim: Ok. Thanks very much.

Staff: It's platform 3.

Selim: Thank you.

24.1.2 Manuel is waiting for his friend to arrive at the bus station. His friend said that he would arrive at 10pm, but it is now 10:15pm and his bus hasn't arrived yet. Manuel tried phoning his friend, but he gets no answer so he goes to ask a member of staff whether the bus is late.

Manuel: Excuse me. Is the 365 bus from San Francisco late?

Staff: Let me check for you, sir. Yes, it is. It should come in at 10pm, but it seems to be running a few minutes late.

Manuel: Do you have any idea what time it'll get here?

Staff: I'm afraid not, sir. Sorry.

24.2 coming in (present continuous)

24.2.1 Aya wants to catch the train to New York, but she isn't sure which platform to go to. She asks a member of station staff.

Aya: Excuse me. I'm looking for the New York train.

Staff: Go to platform 10. The train's coming in now. If you hurry you might catch it!

Aya: Thank you!

24.3 came in (past tense)

24.3.1 James is at the bus station. He's waiting for his friend, Zoe. Her bus has arrived, but she isn't on the bus. James is worried so he goes to talk to a member of staff.

James: Hi. I'm looking for a friend of mine. Her bus came in ten minutes ago, but she wasn't on it.

Staff: Ok. Are you sure it was her bus?

James: Pretty sure. She said she'd be on the 345 from San Diego.

Staff: I see.

Zoe: James ! Hi !

James: Zoe! Where did you go? I didn't see you get off the bus.

Zoe: Really? My bus just came in. The 354.

James: Oh... the 354, not the 345?

Zoe: Yeah.

Staff: That explains it!

24.4 be coming in (past continuous)

24.4.1 Florence and Adam are having a chat over coffee.

Florence: I saw Claire the other day at the supermarket. I hadn't seen her for ages. She looked good.

Adam: Oh, I saw her at the station, but my train was coming in so I couldn't stop to talk. I just waved and jumped on my train.

Florence: She said hello to you.

Adam: Is she still working for ABC Corp?

Florence: No. She has a new job.

Adam: Good for her.

24.5 will come in (future prediction)

24.5.1 Shan and Naruto are waiting for a train at the station.

Shan: I think our train is late.

Naruto: Yeah. There was an announcement just now. Our train will come in at 10:35, not 10:30.

Shan: I hate waiting.

Naruto: It's just five minutes.

Shan: I know.

24.6 be going to come in (future prediction)

24.6.1 Jamie bumps into his friend, Tom, on the platform at the station.

Jamie: Hi, Tom.

Tom: Jamie! Where are you going?

Jamie: I'm going to visit my mom.

Tom: How much time do you have? Fancy grabbing a coffee? I have half an hour before my train.

Jamie: I'd love to, but my train's going to come in soon. I should go.

Tom: Oh well. Next time. Call me.

Jamie: Will do. See you.

24.7 be coming in (present continuous for scheduled future events)

24.7.1 Daniel and Ethan are at the train station waiting for their train home. Daniel wants to buy a snack before the train arrives.

Daniel: Shall I go and buy some coffee and donuts?

Ethan: No. We probably don't have time. The train is coming in soon.

Daniel: I'll be quick. Don't go without me.

Ethan: Dan! Wait!

24.8 have come in (present perfect)

24.8.1 Francis is at the bus station. It is his first time at the bus station and he isn't sure where to go to catch the bus to Denver so he asks a member of staff at the ticket office.

Francis: Hi. I'd like to go to Denver please.

Staff: One way or round trip?

Francis: Round trip please.

Staff: That'll be \$45 please.

Francis: Here you go.

Staff: Thank you.

Francis: When is the next bus to Denver please?

Staff: Well, the 305 has come in already so you could catch that, but it takes longer than the 306.

Francis: Has the 306 come in yet?

Staff: Not yet. It'll come in soon though. If I were you, I'd wait for the 306. It gets to Denver much faster than the 305.

Francis: Ok. I'll do that. Thanks.

Staff: No problem.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: Excuse me. Which platform does the Baltimore train leave from?

B: It's platform 5. The train is _____ now. You'd better hurry!

A: Ok. Thanks.

2.

A: Do we have time to get some coffee?

B: I don't think so. The train is _____ soon.

3.

A: Excuse me. Has the bus to Denver left already?

B: Actually, no. The 305 usually _____ at 3pm, but it's late today for some reason.

A: That's a relief! I need to catch that bus.

4.

A: I saw John at the supermarket yesterday.

B: Really? Actually, I saw him too. At the station.

A: Did you talk?

B: No. Didn't have time. My train was _____ so I had to run.

5.

A: Hi. I'm on the bus now. I'll be there at about 10pm.

B: Great. The weather is so bad. Did you get caught in the rain?

A: I was lucky. My bus _____ a bit early so I didn't have to wait outside for too long.

25. Come in (4)

To be received by someone - especially mail, news, messages, documents, and money

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes in	be coming in	came in	have/has come in

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

be received

25.1 come in (present tense)

25.1.1 Olivia has just started a new job. She is expecting a letter from one of her clients in the mail. She asks the office manager, George, when the mail usually arrives.

Olivia: Hi George. How are you?

George: I'm good, thanks. How are you?

Olivia: I'm doing ok, thanks. Say, what time does the mail usually come in?

George: It comes in around 10am. Are you expecting something?

Olivia: Yes. There's an important letter from a client that's supposed to arrive today.

George: Ok. I'll give you a call if anything comes in for you.

Olivia: Thanks, George.

George: No problem.

25.1.2 Hong and Anika work in the same office. Hong is new and is asking Anika some questions about work.

Hong: Hi Anika.

Anika: Hi. What's up?

Hong: My manager asked me to write a summary of the latest sales report. When does it usually come in?

Anika: Errr, I think it comes in every Wednesday afternoon. You should call John in sales to check. I'm not 100% sure.

Hong: Ok, I will. Thanks.

Anika: No problem.

25.2 be coming in (present continuous)

25.2.1 Oliver and Aya are trying to raise money for a local charity using a funding website.

Oliver: Have you checked the website today Aya? Any donations?

Aya: I have. Quite a lot of donations are coming in. We've raised about \$300 so far.

Oliver: That's great! I'll post some more on our Facebook page and Twitter asking for donations.

Aya: Cool.

25.2.2 Oliver is speaking with his wife, Eva, about their finances. He is concerned that they don't have enough money.

Oliver: How much was our last electricity bill?

Eva: It was.... 200 bucks.

Oliver: Wow. That's a lot. I'm worried that we don't have enough money coming in.

Eva: Me, too. I'm going to start looking for a better job.

Oliver: Well, I'll finish my college course soon so hopefully I'll be able to get a better paid job by next year.

25.3 came in (past tense)

25.3.1 Jack and Luka work together at Micro Corp.

Jack: Luka, I'm trying to email Jane Smith in the marketing department, but the email just bounces back.

Luka: Oh, didn't you hear? A message came in from Head Office last week saying that they were going to fire a lot of people in marketing.

Jack: Why?

Luka: Apparently the company's doing pretty badly.

Jack: Oh. I hope we're not next.

Luka: Me, too.

25.3.2 Emma and Marie run a small company. They are recruiting new staff and have put an advertisement on the internet.

Emma: Anybody respond to our job posting?

Marie: Yes. About 20 applications came in this morning.

Emma: Wow! Already?

Marie: Yeah. Some of them look really good. It's going to be tough choosing someone.

Emma: I wish we had more jobs to offer.

Marie: Yeah, me too.

25.4 will come in (future prediction)

25.4.1 Greg is a manager at a software company. The company is going to launch a new application. Greg is meeting with his team to discuss the launch.

Greg: So everyone. The launch. Are we ready?

James: Yes, I think so.

Greg: How about the admin team? When we launch a lot of enquiries will come in about the software.

Ian: We're ready. We've recruited an extra member of staff to help with the enquiries.

Greg: Great.

25.5 have come in (present perfect)

25.5.1 Sarah works as a radio DJ. She is talking with her producer about her afternoon show.

Sarah: A lot of requests have come in this morning for that new song by The Boom.

Producer: Let's play it. Have we had any requests for Prince? He's just released a new album.

Sarah: No, no requests have come in for him. Not yet, anyway.

Producer: Ok. We'll definitely play The Boom.

Sarah: Cool.

25.5.2 Patrick has just started a job in the kitchen at a cafe that delivers food at lunch time to local offices. Patrick is speaking with his boss, Kim.

Patrick: Kim. What lunch orders have come in so far?

Kim: Just these. Most of the usual orders haven't come in yet. They usually come in around 10:30.

Patrick: Ok. Got it.

Kim: Don't panic. You'll have enough time.

Patrick: Ok.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: An order for a BLT sandwich _____ this morning, but we didn't have any bacon left so I couldn't make it.

B: Ok. I'll go buy some now.

2.

A: How is your fundraising campaign going? What are you collecting donations for again?

B: For UNICEF.

A: That's right.

B: Actually, a lot of donations are _____ now. It's great!

A: Good! I hope you raise a lot of money.

3.

A: Oh wow. Have you seen this letter from the landlord. He's going to put up our rent again. How are we going to pay this?

B: We really don't have enough money _____. I think I need to find a new job.

4.

A: What's wrong?

B: A report has _____ from headquarters. It says that our sales team isn't getting the results they want. I'm going to have to talk to

the sales manager.

A: Good luck!

B: Thanks. He never listens.

5.

A: Hey John.

B: What? What's up?

A: A message _____ for you this morning.

B: What's the message?

A: Your client has to cancel the 2 o'clock meeting.

B: Ok. Thanks for letting me know.

A: No problem.

26. Come in (5)

Finish a race (in a certain position, e.g. 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc.)

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes in	be coming in	came in	have/has come in

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

finish; arrive

26.1 come in - present tense

26.1.1 Ali swims in his college swim team. He is talking with his friend Gabriel about his swimming.

Gabriel: So, are you a good swimmer?

Ali: I'm not bad, I think.

Gabriel: Do you race?

Ali: Sure. I usually come in second or third. Sometimes I come in first, but not often.

Gabriel: Cool. Maybe I'll come and support you at your next race.

Ali: Thanks. I have one next week, actually.

Gabriel: Ok. I'll come along.

Ali: Great. Thanks.

26.2 came in - past tense

26.2.1 William (Will) likes to run triathlons. He is talking with his friend, Jacob, about a race that he ran in recently.

Jacob: So, how did your race go? Did you come in first?

Will: Very funny. There were 500 people. I came in 100th, which was pretty good for me.

Jacob: Did you beat your personal best?

Will: Not this time, unfortunately. Maybe next time.

26.3 will come in (future prediction)

26.3.1 Nikola and Emily are watching the Olympics together on TV. They're watching the 10,000 meter race. They are discussing who they think will win the race.

Nikola: I think Johnson will win.

Emily: I don't think so. Johnson is good, but I think he'll come in second. I think Tergat will win.

Nikola: Why?

Emily: Well, he's won so many times before. I just think it's more likely.

Nikola: Well, we'll soon see who's right!

Emily: We will.

26.4 be going to come in (future prediction with certainty)

26.4.1 Peter and Wei are watching a horse race on TV. They have both bet some money on horses to win.

Peter: I reckon my horse is going to win.

Wei: There's no way your horse is going to come in first. It doesn't look like a winner to me.

Peter: I'm telling you. It's going to come in first.

Wei: Well, if it does, the drinks are on you!

Peter: You bet.

26.5 have come in (present perfect)

26.5.1 Feng is running in a 10 mile race for charity. His friend Cheng is waiting near the finish line when another friend, George arrives.

Cheng: Hi George.

George: Hi. How's it going?

Cheng: Good thanks. Glad you could make it.

George: Glad to be here! Has Feng come in yet?

Cheng: No. Nobody's come in yet.

George: Oh good. I thought I was late.

Cheng: No.

26.5.2 Feng has come in 9th in the race. He is very happy. He talks with his friends about the race.

Cheng: Well done, man!

George: Amazing!

Feng: Wow. I'm so tired.

Cheng: You were 9th out of 500. That must be a personal best.

Feng: I've come in in the first twenty before, but never in the top ten.

George: Well done. Let's go celebrate. The drinks are on me.

Feng: Sounds great. First, I need some water!

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: How did your race go today?

B: Not great. I only _____ 10th. I usually _____ at least 6th.

A: I'm sure you'll do better next time.

B: I need to train a bit harder, I think.

2.

A: What are you watching?

B: It's the ten thousand meters.

A: Oh cool. I wanted to watch this. Has Johnson _____ yet?

B: No, not yet. Tergat has _____ already.

A: He's so fast. Amazing.

3.

A: Which horse do you think is going to win?

B: I'm not sure. I think "Alpha Mail" might _____ second or third, but I'm not sure who'll _____ first.

A: That's a cool name. I like that. "Alpha Mail". Ha ha.

Review Quiz 1

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations by using the correct phrasal verb from the list below. Make sure you use the correct tense.

Phrasal verb list:

look at / set up / go on / come on / find out / come from / come in

1.

A: Many famous scientists in the United States have _____ overseas. They were immigrants.

B: Like who?

A: Like... Einstein. He _____ Germany.

B: I see. That's really interesting.

2.

A: Hey John.

B: What? What's up?

A: A message _____ for you this morning.

B: What's the message?

A: Your client has to cancel the 2 o'clock meeting.

B: Ok. Thanks for letting me know.

A: No problem.

3.

A: Is that IT support?

B: Yes. How can I help?

A: My computer won't start properly.

B: Ok. Please switch on your computer.

A: Ok.

B: Has it _____ ok?

A: It's _____ now. Oh no. It's switched itself off again.

4.

A: We've _____ your x-rays and you have a broken wrist.

B: Oh no. Will it take a long time to heal?

A: It could take up to three months.

B: Oh no.

5.

A: What are you _____ ?

B: Hmmm?

A: You're obviously _____ something interesting.

B: Oh... No. I'm just daydreaming about what I'd like to eat for lunch.

6.

A: Do you play the saxophone?

B: Yeah, I do. Why do you ask?

A: I'm going to _____ a jazz band. I'm looking for a sax player. Are you interested?

B: Sure. Sounds really interesting.

A: Great! Our first rehearsal will be next Tuesday.

B: Okay. I'll be there.

7.

A: I'm going to _____ my own business.

B: What kind of business?

A: I'm going to sell homemade cakes for children's parties

B: Have you _____ a business before?

A: No. So I'm a little nervous.

B: Your cakes are delicious. I'm sure it'll be a success.

A: Thanks.

8.

A: What's that?

B: It's a solar powered charger for my phone.

A: Why do you need that? If you _____ wasting your money, you'll have nothing left for the vacation.

B: It's ok. It was cheap.

9.

A: _____ ! The school bus is here.

B: But I'm still hungry, mom.

A: You've eaten two bowls of cereal already! _____ .

B: Ok.

A: Call your sister.

B: _____, Jenn. The bus is here!

A: Coming.

10.

A: This is the best Indian food I've ever tasted.

B: _____

A: No, really. It's delicious.

11.

A: Which of the famous sites are we going to see today?

B: I thought we could go to the Acropolis.

A: Sounds good. How do we get there from here?

B: I'm not sure. I've _____ the times of buses leaving the hotel, but I need to ask the front desk which bus we should catch.

12.

A: A friend of mine _____ Mexico City. I'm thinking of visiting her next summer.

B: Really? Can I come, too? I've always wanted to go there.

A: Sure. That would be so much fun!

13.

A: Can you hear that strange sound?

B: No. What kind of sound?

A: A strange ringing sound. It's _____ outside, I think.

B: No, I can't hear anything.

14.

A: Hey. Where's your car?

B: Oh. I had to take it to the garage.

A: What happened?

B: The "check engine" light _____ so I got worried.

15.

A: Where did your idea for this robotics project _____ ?

B: It _____ nature.

A: How do you mean?

B: Well, I observed how insects fly and I had the idea of building a tiny robot that could fly in the same way.

A: That's really cool.

16.

A: Why is he so confident?

B: I think his confidence _____ him being so experienced.

17.

A: What are you watching?

B: It's the ten thousand meters.

A: Oh cool. I wanted to watch this. Has Johnson _____ yet?

B: No, not yet. Tergat has _____ already.

A: He's so fast. Amazing.

18.

A: (Knocking on door). Hello. Mr. Smith. Are you there?

B: Please _____. The door's not locked.

A: Ok.

19.

A: We've _____ the situation very carefully and we've decided to ok the project.

B: That's great news. Thank you.

A: We need to arrange a meeting soon to _____ the details of the project.

B: Of course.

20.

A: Ms. Smith, are you going to _____ this afternoon? A client called who'd like to set up a meeting today, if possible.

B: No, I'm not. I'm _____ tomorrow though. Could you please call back the client and try to set up a meeting with them tomorrow instead?

A: Sure. No problem.

B: Thanks. See you tomorrow.

21.

A: My son asked me where babies _____. I don't know how to answer him.

B: How old is he?

A: Five.

B: Maybe you should get him a picture book about it.

22.

A: My grandfather _____ quite a religious family. He was quite shocked when I started living with my girlfriend.

B: Why?

A: Because we weren't married first.

B: Oh, I see. "Living in sin" as they say!

A: Exactly.

23.

A: Excuse me. Has the bus to Denver left already?

B: Actually, no. The 305 usually _____ at 3pm, but it's late today for some reason.

A: That's a relief! I need to catch that bus.

24.

A: Have you read that email from the manager?

B: No, not yet. I'll _____ it later. I'm busy right now.

A: Make sure you _____ it . She's not very happy with us.

B: Really? Ok. I'll _____ it right after this.

25.

A: Why didn't you read the homework article?

B: I'm sorry. I was _____ it last night, but I suddenly started to feel sick so I went to bed early.

A: Ok. No problem. Are you feeling better?

B: Yes, thanks.

27. Talk to (1)

To speak with someone or something

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
talk/talks to	be talking to	talked to	have/has talked to

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

Speak to; converse with

27.1 talk to (present tense)

27.1.1 Madison and Emma work in the same office together. Madison has a problem using her word processor and asks Emma for help.

Madison: Emma. How do you make a contents page?

Emma: Oh, I don't know. Why don't you talk to Sarah. She knows all that difficult stuff.

Madison: Ok. Thanks.

27.1.2 Isabelle is having coffee with a friend of hers. They are talking about the people they work with.

Isabelle: Do you have many friends in your office?

Pam: Not many. I talk to a lot of people, but I wouldn't say that we are friends.

Isabelle: Same here.

27.1.3 Adam is talking with his friend Hiroto about family.

Adam: So Hiroto. Do you go back to Japan much?

Hiroto: Maybe once a year. I call my mom every week though.

Adam: Your mom? How about your dad?

Hiroto: My parents are divorced and I don't talk to my father much. We don't get along.

Adam: Oh, I see.

27.2 be talking to (present continuous)

27.2.1 Anna has invited some friends to her apartment for dinner. Everyone is sitting around the dinner table except for her friend, Lea. Anna hears Lea talking in the kitchen. She goes into the kitchen and sees that Lea is speaking on the phone to someone.

Anna: Lea. Dinner's ready! Come and get it!

Lea: Sorry. I'm talking to my mom. I'll join you in a second.

Anna: No worries. We'll wait for you.

Lea: Thanks. Sorry.

27.2.2 Aya and Amelia work at the same company. Aya is looking for a colleague and can't find him so she asks Amelia if she has seen him.

Aya: Hey Amelia.

Amelia: Hi there.

Aya: Have you seen Paul this morning? I can't find him anywhere.

Amelia: Yes. He's talking to Kevin in his office.

Aya: Oh. That's why I couldn't see him.

Amelia: He should be done soon.

Aya: Ok.

27.3 talked to (past)

27.3.1 John is calling his previous gym. He cancelled his membership but the gym is still charging his credit card.

Gym: Hello. Gym Active can I help you?

John: Hello. My name is John Robson. I called last week and talked to someone about cancelling my membership.

Gym: Ok, sir. How can I help today?

John: I got my credit card bill today and Gym Active is still charging my card.

Gym: I see, sir. Sorry about that. Let me just check our system. Ok. Your account was cancelled on the 21st, but according to the cancellation policy, the deadline for cancellations is the 20th of the month so we had to charge you for one more month.

John: Oh.

Gym: You're welcome to use the gym until the 21st of next month, sir.

John: Ok, thanks. So you won't charge my card again, right?

Gym: That's correct, sir.

John: Ok.

Gym: Was there anything else, sir?

John: No, thanks. Bye.

Gym: Thank you for using Gym Active. Good bye, sir.

27.3.2 Zoe is talking with her friend Diane about getting fit.

Zoe: I feel really unfit. I haven't been to the gym or done any exercise for ages.

Diane: Me, neither. Maybe we should do something together?

Zoe: That's a good idea. I talked to my friend Claire about joining her dance class. Wanna come with?

Diane: Sounds like fun. What kind of dance?

Zoe: All kinds, I think. It's nothing serious. Just for fun.

Diane: Perfect!

27.4 be talking to (past continuous)

27.4.1 Anya and Maria are friends who work in the same office. It's lunchtime.

Anya: Hey Maria. How's it going? Are you ready to go out for lunch?

Maria: Just a minute. I have to call a client first. I was talking to her when my cell battery died in the middle of the conversation!

Anya: Oh no. Ok. I'll wait for you downstairs.

Maria: Ok. Thanks. See you in a minute.

27.4.2 Fred and Isabelle work in the same office. They are talking about a colleague called Tom.

Isabelle: Hey, Fred.

Fred: What's up?

Isabelle: Why is Tom acting so weird? I said hello to him but he just completely ignored me.

Fred: I don't know, but he was talking to the CEO yesterday about something. He came out of the CEO's office looking really angry.

Isabelle: Oh. I wonder what they were talking about.

Fred: Yeah. Must be something big.

27.5 will talk to (offer of future help)

27.5.1 Louise is having coffee with her friend, Yasmine. Louise wants to get a new job.

Louise: I really don't like my job. It's boring and I'm not learning anything new.

Yasmine: Why don't you look for a new job?

Louise: I think I will.

Yasmine: Ok. I'll talk to a friend of mine. He works for a great company and I think you'd be a good fit for a role they're advertising.

Louise: Great! Thanks very much.

Yasmine: No problem. Anytime.

27.6 be going to talk to (future intention or plan)

27.6.1 Emma and Jack work in the same office together. They are chatting at lunchtime.

Jack: How's it going Emma. You look really busy today.

Emma: Yeah. I'm really not happy about my workload.

Jack: You do seem really busy.

Emma: I am. I think I'm going to talk to my manager and see if he can reduce it.

Jack: Good luck!

Emma: Thanks. I need it.

27.7 be talking to (present continuous for future scheduled plans)

27.7.1 Ruby is an architect for company ABC Ltd. She wants to set up a meeting with her colleague, Jing.

Ruby: Hi Jing. Can we meet tomorrow afternoon to discuss the Johnson building plans?

Jing: Sorry, but I'm talking to JAS tomorrow afternoon about a new contract. How about the morning?

Ruby: Sure. Ten?

Jing: Ten o'clock sounds good.

Ruby: Ok. I'll email you a reminder.

Jing: Thanks.

27.8 have talked to (present perfect)

27.8.1 Rob is talking with his partner about their Christmas holiday plans. This year, they are going to travel overseas and won't spend the holiday with their parents.

Rob: Have you talked to your parents about our Christmas holiday plans?

Partner: No. I haven't talked to them yet. They're going to be so disappointed we've decided to go overseas for Christmas.

Rob: Well, you have to do it sometime.

Partner: I know. I'll call them tomorrow.

27.8.2 Cooper and Ben go to the same English language school. They are sitting together in the cafeteria.

Cooper: Who's that girl? She's beautiful.

Ben: She's in my class, but I've never talked to her before. Why don't you ask her if she wants to join us for coffee?

Cooper: You ask. I'm shy.

Ben: Yeah, right!

27.9 had talked to (past perfect)

27.9.1 Emma and Richard are talking about Emma's vacation. Emma is recommending the hotel she stayed at.

Richard: How was your vacation?

Emma: Great thanks.

Richard: How was the hotel?

Emma: It was really good. The staff were so friendly. We took a very late flight and had to check in at 2am, but they didn't mind.

Richard: Was there someone at reception all night?

Emma: No. I'd talked to them the day before so they made special arrangements for us. They were so kind.

Richard: Sounds nice. Maybe I'll stay there the next time I'm in Florida.

Emma: You should.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: Do you like working from home?

B: I like that I don't have to commute, but I don't _____ many people so it can be a bit lonely.

A: I see.

2.

A: Who is Peter _____ ?

B: I think it's his sister. She's visiting him from New York.

A: Oh. Let's go and _____ them.

B: Sure.

3.

A: I _____ my boss yesterday about my latest project. I told her that I was having some difficulties.

B: Was she sympathetic?

A: Yes. She's put me in contact with a good project manager in the company who's going to coach me.

B: That's good.

4.

A: Have you worked with the new finance director?

B: I've seen him around, but I've never _____ him. Why?

A: Just wondering what he's like. I have to do a project involving him next month.

B: Oh, I see. I've heard he's pretty easy to work with.

A: Oh, good.

5.

A: I want to lose weight and go to the gym, but I can't get motivated.

B: You should _____ Jamie. He's looking for a gym buddy.

A: Ok. That's a good idea. I'll _____ him this afternoon. I have a class with him.

28. Talk to (2)

To tell someone that they have done something wrong and that you are angry or dissatisfied about it

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
talk/talks to	be talking to	talked to	have/has talked to

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

tell off; scold; admonish

28.1 talk to (present tense)

28.1.1 Omar and Liam are teachers at a school for young children.

Omar: Is your class well behaved?

Liam: Not really. There are a few really naughty kids and I have to talk to their parents from time to time.

Omar: Sounds like my class.

Liam: Kids are kids, I guess!

Omar: Yep.

28.1.2 Fatima is Claire's boss. Fatima is not happy with the performance of Claire's team.

Fatima: Claire. The performance of your team on your last project could have been better. You missed deadlines and the quality of the presentations wasn't as good as I'd hoped for.

Claire: I see. I think the team tried their best.

Fatima: Unfortunately, they need to work a bit harder on the next project. At least, you can't miss deadlines. You need to talk to them about this.

Claire: I understand. I will.

28.2 talked to (past tense)

28.2.1 Mr. Wilson lives next to a house which is rented by university students. The students are often very noisy and have parties late into the night. Mr. Wilson is speaking with the students' landlord on the phone.

Mr. Wilson: I'm really upset about these kids. I talked to them just yesterday, but they're partying like animals. It's so noisy I can't sleep.

Landlord: I'm very sorry Mr. Wilson. I also talked to them last week. I've had enough. I'm going to ask them to leave.

Mr. Wilson: I'm glad to hear it. I hope the next bunch of students won't be so damn noisy.

28.3 will talk to (future intention)

28.3.1 Mrs. Taylor is a teacher at a high school. She is having a meeting with Mr. Johnson about his daughter, Sarah.

Mrs. Taylor: So, Mr. Johnson. Sarah is doing quite well overall, but she does have trouble concentrating in class.

Mr. Johnson: How do you mean?

Mrs. Taylor: I often see her using her cell phone.

Mr. Johnson: Don't worry. I'll talk to her about it.

Mrs. Taylor: Thank you. I appreciate it.

28.4 be going to talk to (future intention / plan)

28.4.1 Jayden and Josh are at a restaurant. The waiter was rude to Jayden and Jayden is angry.

Jayden: I can't believe he was so rude.

Josh: Yeah. Such a rude waiter. Unbelievable.

Jayden: I'm going to talk to his manager. It's unacceptable.

28.5 have talked to (present perfect)

28.5.1 Ethan and Gabrielle run a business together. Ethan has an assistant called John who is a little bit lazy. Gabrielle wants Ethan to talk to John. She wants John to work harder.

Gabrielle: I saw John playing games on his computer again today.

Ethan: Really? Maybe he was taking a break?

Gabrielle: Yeah. Not for two hours! I want you to talk to him.

Ethan: I've talked to him already about it.

Gabrielle: Maybe you need to talk to him again.

Ethan: Ok, ok.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations using the correct form of “talk to”:

1.

A: Have you _____ David?

B: About what?

A: About not playing music so loud! He’s disturbing the neighbors.

B: Why don’t you _____ him?

A: You know he doesn’t listen to me. You have to _____ him.

B: Ok, ok. I will.

2.

A: I need to _____ my personal assistant.

B: Why? What’s up?

A: She’s always late coming to work.

B: Maybe she has a good reason.

A: I’ll find out.

3.

A: Please _____ your tenant. She never throws out her trash. The whole building stinks because of her!

B: I _____ her about it last week.

A: Do it again! This is driving us all crazy. I’m sure I saw a rat near her door.

B: Ok. I'll _____ her again. Sorry.

4.

A: Wow. I can't believe how dirty this room is!

B This is crazy. We're paying \$100 per night for this room.

A: I know.

B: I'm going to _____ the hotel management. This is really unacceptable.

5.

A: I _____ my daughter about her bad grades yesterday.

B: How did she react?

A: She's not talking to me. She said that she tried her best. She said it's not her fault.

B: Maybe she needs some help with her studies from a private tutor.

A: Maybe. I'm going to look for one.

29. Come back (1)

To return to a place

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes back	be coming back	came back	have/has come back

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

return; revisit; reappear

29.1 come back to/from (present tense)

29.1.1 Sahar and Mary are on vacation in Scotland. They are talking about how beautiful it is there.

Sahar: This place is so beautiful.

Mary: I know. We really have to come back* here next year.

Sahar: I'd love to.

* "come back to here" is incorrect

29.1.2 Ethan and Ryan are talking about their friend Michael. Michael was a soldier in Afghanistan and recently returned home.

Ethan: Michael looks really down.

Ryan: Yeah, I know.

Ethan: I want to talk to him about it, but I don't know how.

Ryan: I think a lot of guys get down when they come back from war.

Ethan: Yeah.

29.1.3 Deven is Chloe's boyfriend. They are at the party together when Deven sees his girlfriend kissing someone else. Deven gets very upset and goes outside. Chloe follows him outside.

Chloe: Come back Deven!

Deven: What the hell were you doing!

Chloe: I'm sorry. It just happened.

Deven: Why?

Chloe: I don't know. I had too much to drink.

Deven: I can't believe you would kiss another guy.

Chloe: I'm sorry. Come back inside.

Deven: Leave me alone. I need to think.

29.1.4 Petra is a mother. She has a teenage daughter and they are having an argument. Her daughter gets very upset and runs out of the room.

Petra: Come back in here!

Daughter: No!

Petra: We are not done talking.

Daughter: You never listen to me. You don't understand me.

Petra: I do. I used to be like you. That's why I am giving you some advice.

29.1.5 Isabella is at her favorite restaurant.

Isabella: Thanks. That was really delicious.

Restaurant owner: Thank you. I'm so glad you liked it. It was my grandmother's recipe.

Isabella: Really? Wonderful.

Restaurant owner: Come back soon!

Isabella: Of course!

29.2 be coming back (present continuous)

29.2.1 Francesco works in an office. Francesco's co-worker, Adam, receives a phone call from Francesco's manager.

Adam: Hello. Adam speaking.

Manager: Hi Adam. Where is Francesco?

Adam: He had a meeting with a client, but he is coming back to the office now.

Manager: Okay, I see. Please get him to call me.

Adam: Sure. Will do.

Manager: Thanks.

Adam: No problem.

29.2.2 Claire has just returned from the supermarket with her baby daughter. When she left the house her partner was fixing the kitchen door, but now her partner is not at home. She calls her partner to find out where he is.

Partner: Hello? What's up?

Claire: Where are you?

Partner: I am at Dave's place.

Claire: Can you come back please? It's your turn to cook lunch. You promised.

Partner: I know. I'm coming back now. I just came here to return Dave's screwdriver.

Claire: Okay. See you soon.

Partner: Bye.

29.3 came back (past tense)

29.3.1 Hugo and Daisy are friends. They are drinking coffee together at a local coffee shop. Last week, Daisy's partner, Jane, went away on business.

Hugo: Is Jane still away?

Daisy: No. Actually she came back yesterday.

Hugo: You must be glad to see her.

Daisy: Yeah. The apartment was too quiet without her!

29.3.2 John and Robert are talking about what they want to do after they graduate from college.

John: What are you going to do after you graduate?

Robert: I haven't decided yet. You?

John: Actually, I'm thinking of going to Australia for a year.

Robert: Really? A friend of mine did that and he never came back.

John: Why? What happened?

Robert: He just loved the place so much he didn't want to leave.

John: Wow. It must be worth visiting then.

29.3.3 Jasmine and Alesha work in the same office. Jasmine is looking for a co-worker, Peter.

Jasmine: Alesha, have you seen Peter?

Alesha: Yes, I have. He just came back from a client meeting. Isn't he in his office?

Jasmine: No, he's not. I wonder where he's gone.

Alesha: Sorry, I don't know.

29.3.4 Jack is visiting his friend, Helen. They are chatting at Helen's apartment. Helen has a very clever pet dog which Jack likes very much. They are talking about Helen's dog.

Jack: Your dog is so smart.

Helen: Yes, she is. You know, the other day, I was lying in bed in the morning and she disappeared into the other room. When she came back, she had her leash in her mouth.

Jack: She wanted you to take her for a walk! That's so smart!

Helen: She's so cute.

29.4 be coming back (past continuous)

29.4.1 Hugo and his girlfriend, Louise, are trying to decide where to go on vacation.

Hugo: Have you ever been to Venice?

Louise: No, I haven't. Have you?

Hugo: No. But I chatted to someone once at an airport who was coming back from visiting her brother in Venice. She said it was the most beautiful city on Earth.

Louise: Really? I wonder how much it would cost to go there.

Hugo: I don't know. Let's find out.

29.4.2 Ruth shows her roommate a wallet that she found.

Ruth: Hey, look what I found.

Roommate: Oh, a wallet. Where did you find that?

Ruth: I was coming back from the shops when I saw it on the ground.

Roommate: Is there any ID?

Ruth: Yes. I'm going to call the person now.

29.5 will come back (future prediction)

29.5.1 Tom's girlfriend has left him because he was cheating on her. Tom is talking to his best friend Anthony about the situation.

Anthony: Don't worry, Tom. She'll come back.

Tom: I don't think she will come back. Not unless I get down on my knees and beg.

Anthony: Well, why don't you do that then?

Tom: Because I can't contact her. She won't answer her phone.

Anthony: Keep trying.

Tom: I will.

29.5.2 Fatima is talking to her teenage son. She is going to go out to the shops.

Fatima: Hassan!

Hassan: What!

Fatima: I'm going out to the shops. I'll come back by lunchtime. Make sure you clean your bedroom.

Hassan: Okay, mom.

Fatima: I mean it!

Hassan: Yeah, yeah.

29.6 be going to come back (future plan or intention)

29.6.1 Anthea is going away for a working holiday in Japan. Her friends are holding a leaving party for her.

Friend: We are going to miss you so much.

Anthea: I'll miss you guys too. I'm going to come back at Christmas so let's meet up then.

Friend: You bet!

29.6.2 John receives a phone call from his personal assistant.

John: Hello?

Personal assistant: Hi, John. Are you going to come back to the office later?

John: Yes, I am. Why?

Personal assistant: We need to talk about your schedule for next week.

John: Oh, yes. I totally forgot. I'm going to come back to the office after this client meeting, so let's talk about it then.

Personal assistant: Okay. See you soon.

John: See you.

29.7 be coming back (present continuous for scheduled/fixed plans)

29.7.1 Gabriel and Oliver work in the same office together. Gabriel is going to move to head office in Denver soon.

Oliver: So Gabriel. I hear that you're moving to Denver.

Gabriel: Yeah. Next month.

Oliver: Will you stay there for good.

Gabriel: No. I'm coming back next year. It's just for a six month project.

Oliver: Well, best of luck.

Gabriel: Thanks. I think I'm going to need it!

29.8 have come back (present perfect)

29.8.1 Ben and Eleanor are taking a walk together. They see a flock of white pelicans.

Ben: Look Eleanor! The birds have come back for the winter.

Eleanor: I have never visited Florida before. I didn't know there were pelicans here.

Ben: Sure. They come back here every winter because it's warmer than up north.

Eleanor: I see.

29.8.2 Jamie calls his co-worker Susan. Susan works with a man called Robert.

Susan: Hello. Susan speaking.

Jamie: Hi Susan. How are you?

Susan: I'm good thanks. What's up?

Jaimie: I've emailed and called Robert but I haven't heard anything from him. Has he come back from his vacation yet?

Susan: No, not yet. I think he comes back tomorrow.

Jamie: Oh, okay. I thought he came back yesterday. I'll give him a call tomorrow. Thanks Susan.

Susan: No problem. See you.

Jamie: Bye.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: I love this city. The people are so friendly and the food is fantastic!

B: Well. Why don't we _____ next year?

A: Great idea.

2.

A: So Rachel is moving to Paris.

B: Yeah, but I think she'll _____. I don't think she's ever lived in a foreign country before.

A: Maybe. But she loves Paris. I don't think she'll _____ anytime soon.

3.

A: John Richard Smith! You _____ here right now! I told you to clean your room. It's disgusting!

B: But, mom! I wanna play with my friends.

A: Not until your room is spotless.

B: Oh, mom.

4.

A: Helen. I'm going out now to meet a client downtown.

B: Are you _____ this afternoon?

A: No. I'm working from home this afternoon.

B: Ok. Have a nice weekend.

A: Thanks. You too.

5.

A: Hey. Guess who I met when I was _____ from the pet store?

B: Your mom?

A: Ha ha. Funny. No. Greg!

B: Greg. Really? Haven't seen him in ages.

A: I know!

30. Come back (2)

To happen, or exist, again. Return.

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes back	be coming back	came back	have/has come back

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

reappear; return

30.1 come back (present tense)

30.1.1 Tess and Emily are chatting together at a coffee shop. Emily is complaining that the skin on her hands is very dry and itchy.

Tess: What's up with your hands? That looks uncomfortable.

Emily: It is. My hands are fine in the summer, but the dry skin always comes back in the winter.

Tess: Have you tried a hand cream?

Emily: I've tried a few. They don't seem to work very well.

Tess: You should go to your doctor. Maybe you need something with a steroid.

Emily: Maybe you're right. I'll make an appointment.

30.1.2 David is visiting his grandmother. She is having some difficulty walking.

David: Your walking is not so good grandma. Are you okay?

Grandmother: I'm okay. My arthritis isn't too bad in the summer, but the aches and pains always come back when it starts getting colder.

David: Can I get you anything from the drugstore?

Grandmother: No, don't worry. I have medicine from the doctor.

David: Ok. I'll make us a nice cup of tea, then.

Grandmother: That would be nice. Thank you.

30.2 be coming back (present continuous)

30.2.1 Robert is visiting the doctor with his young son.

Robert: Hello doctor.

Doctor: Hello Robert. So how is little James doing?

Robert: Unfortunately the warts that you removed from his fingers are coming back.

Doctor: I see. Warts are very common in children. It can take a couple of treatments to get rid of them completely.

Robert: I see. I'll stop worrying in that case!

Doctor: Yes, yes. There's nothing to worry about.

30.3 came back (past tense)

30.3.1 Lian is talking with her friend Mark. Lian is complaining about her car.

Lian: Do you remember I told you that my car was making a strange noise?

Mark: Yeah. Why? What happened?

Lian: Well, I took it to the garage and they fixed it, but yesterday the strange noise came back.

Mark: Oh no. Do you know what the problem is?

Lian: I think the problem is my car is just too old. I'm thinking of buying a new one.

Mark: Maybe you should buy a bicycle.

Lian: I don't know how to ride!

30.3.2 Fred lives in an old apartment with a mold problem. He's talking on the phone to his landlord.

Fred: Mr. Chen. I closed my bathroom window because it's so cold outside and then the mold came back.

Mr. Chen: You need to leave the window open for at least an hour after using the shower. Have you been doing that?

Fred: No. The weather is too cold. If I leave the window open, a cold draft comes into the living room.

Mr. Chen: I'm sorry. There is nothing I can do about that.

Fred: Ok. I don't think we're going to find a solution. Thanks. Good bye Mr. Chen.

Mr. Chen: Bye.

30.4 be coming back (past continuous)

30.4.1 Helen is talking to her friend Jonathan about why she changed her job.

Jonathan: Why did you leave your job? I thought you really liked it.

Helen: I did like it, but it was just too busy. I didn't have time for a social life. I was getting really stressed and it started to affect my health.

Jonathan: In what way?

Helen: I started to get really bad headaches and my hair started to fall out!

Jonathan: Oh no. That's terrible.

Helen: At first I took a vacation and the symptoms got better, but after I returned to work, the symptoms were coming back so I decided I needed to quit.

Jonathan: I see. So is your new job less stressful?

Helen: Yes, much. I'm much happier now.

30.5 will come back (future prediction)

30.5.1 Ellen is talking to her doctor about quitting smoking.

Doctor: If you want to quit smoking I recommend using these nicotine patches.

Ellen: Okay. What do they do?

Doctor: They stop you craving cigarettes.

Ellen: Great! That's what I need.

Doctor: You need to use them for at least three months or the craving will come back.

Ellen: Ok. No problem. Thanks Dr. Simonds.

Doctor: You're welcome. Quitting smoking will really improve your health.

30.6 be going to come back (future prediction)

30.6.1 Jill and her mother are in Jill's yard. Jill is showing her mother her new roses.

Jill: Aren't they lovely, mom?

Mother: Yes, they are. Have you sprayed them to keep the aphids away?

Jill: I did. But I don't like using chemicals. I'm thinking of using some organic ways of controlling them.

Mother: Trust me. The aphids are going to come back if you don't spray them again.

Jill: We'll see. I'm going to try to be organic.

30.7 have come back (present perfect)

30.7.1 Pierre is talking to his friend, Sue, about yoga. Sue has back pain and her doctor has recommended that she does yoga to strengthen her muscles and reduce the pain.

Sue: So my doctor is telling me to do yoga.

Pierre: For your back?

Sue: Yes.

Pierre: I think it's a good idea. I had lower back pain so I started doing yoga last year. The pain disappeared after a few weeks and has never come back.

Sue: Maybe I'll give it a try then.

30.7.2 Miguel is chatting with his girlfriend, Mariana, on Skype. Miguel and Mariana are both from Brazil, but Marianna is studying English for a few weeks in London.

Mariana: Let's practice speaking in English.

Miguel: Ok. How is the famous British weather?

Mariana: Terrible. It was sunny for two days, but the wind and rain have come back already.

Miguel: But it's supposed to be summer there, right?

Mariana: Hmmm. What is British summer?

Miguel: Maybe it's just two days long!

Mariana: Oh, I hope not!

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: I like your freckles. They're cute.

B: Really? I don't like them. They fade in the winter but always _____ in the summer.

2.

A: Why did you buy a new car?

B: I paid a lot of money to fix my engine troubles, but they eventually _____ so I thought it would be best to buy something new.

3.

A: Doctor. The new pills you gave me helped at first, but now the symptoms have _____

B: I'm sorry to hear that. Let me take a look.

4.

A: How did you give up eating sweets?

B: Well, I needed to lose weight for my health so I just stopped eating chocolate and other desserts.

A: Wasn't it hard?

B: Very hard at first. The cravings were terrible, but eventually they stopped and they haven't _____ .

5.

A: How's the weather where you are?

B: It was rainy for a few days, but the sun has _____ , thankfully.

A: That's good. The weather is really cold here.

31. Come back (3)

To react, reply or respond

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes back	not used with this meaning	came back	have/has come back

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

react; reply; respond; answer

31.1 come back (present tense)

31.1.1 Noel and Tobias worked together. Tobias needs a good advertising agency. Noel is recommending one.

Tobias: Noel. Can you recommend a good advertising agency?

Noel: Sure. How about ABC Ltd.?

Tobias: Are they quick?

Noel: Yes. They usually come back with good ideas fairly quickly.

Tobias: Great. Can I have their contact details please?

Noel: Sure. I'll email them to you.

Tobias: Thanks.

Noel: No problem.

31.1.2 Luka and Anna both work for a university. Luka has sent an email to a professor, but hasn't received a reply. He asks Anna about this.

Luka: Anna. Have you ever worked on a project with Prof Smith before?

Anna: Yes. Why?

Luca: I emailed him last week, but I haven't had a reply from him.

Anna: That sounds like him. Whenever I email him he never comes back to me quickly.

Luca: Okay. I think I'll pay him a visit.

Anna: I think that would be a good idea.

31.1.3 Amelia is Oliver's boss. She is talking to him about one of their company's suppliers.

Amelia: Oliver. ABC supplies can be a little slow.

Oliver: I emailed them yesterday, but I've had no response.

Amelia: They should come back to you by the end of this week. If they don't, you'll need to chase them. Don't let them forget.

Oliver: Understood.

31.2 came back (past tense)

31.2.1 Robert is Trevor's manager. Trevor recently asked a marketing agency called Global Markets Ltd. to produce a marketing plan for a new project.

Robert: Hi Trevor. Did Global Markets come back to you with anything interesting?

Trevor: Yes, they came back with some good ideas.

Robert: Could you email it to me?

Trevor: Of course. I'll do it right now.

Robert: Thanks.

31.2.2 Mohammad is a company director. He is holding a meeting with his project team about a new project they are working on.

Mohammad: Melissa. Could you give us an update on the advertising plan for the project, please?

Melissa: Yes, of course. The advertising agency came back with some good proposals.

Mohammad: Okay. Let's hear them.

Melissa: I'll put up their PowerPoint presentation.

Mohammad: Great. Thanks.

31.2.3 Greg is talking to his colleague, Tim, about a new product that their company is designing.

Greg: How's the design going for the exterior of the new laptop?

Tim: Not good. The design team didn't come back with any good ideas after last month's meeting. I had to ask them to try again.

Greg: Oh dear. Well, we won't sell the laptop if the design is just average. It needs to be really good.

Tim: Yeah. You try telling that to the design team.

Greg: Ha ha. No. I'll leave that to you!

Tim: Thanks.

31.3 will come back (future prediction)

31.3.1 Shu-fen is complaining to her boss, Karen, that the digital media agency she used to produce a social media marketing plan has given her a very poor plan.

Shu-fen: Karen. Did you have time to look at the email I sent you about the social media marketing plan? Should I ask a different agency to redo the plan?

Karen: No. I think you should email this agency and explain in much more detail what you want.

Shu-fen: Ok. But, I think they did a poor job.

Karen: I think you weren't clear enough. If you're not clear about what you want, the agency will come back to you with a poor solution. You need to tell them exactly what you need.

Shu-fen: Ok. I'll email them.

31.3.2 Dave is nervous because he has a meeting with his boss tomorrow and he has to convince her to accept his proposal for a new project. Dave is talking to his friend, Tom about it.

Dave: What am I going to do if she doesn't like my proposal? I've worked for weeks on it.

Tom: You have to really sell your proposal to your boss. If you don't, she will probably come back with a counter proposal. You need to be assertive.

Dave: I know. I'll try. I'm not very good at being assertive.

Tom: Don't worry. You'll be fine. Just believe in yourself and your ideas. I think they're great!

Dave: Thanks.

31.4 be going to come back (future prediction)

31.4.1 Monica is talking to her team at work. They are trying to win a new contract from ABC Corporation.

Monica: Ok team. This contract with ABC is really important for us.

Fred: Are our competitors submitting proposals?

Monica: We can be sure that our competitors will be submitting proposals, too. We need to offer ABC something really special. I'm sure our competitors are going to come back to them with excellent ideas, too.

31.5 have come back (present perfect)

31.5.1 Dan and Ben are planning to make dinner for some friends. Dan has sent invitations to all of their friends. Ben is asking Dan who has replied.

Ben: So, who's coming for dinner?

Dan: Nick and Sarah have come back to me already and they say they're coming.

Ben: Anyone else? Has Lucy come back to you yet?

Dan: No. Greg and Lian haven't come back to me either. I'll give everyone a call and confirm.

Ben: Thanks. I'm going shopping. Let me know the numbers.

Dan: Sure. See you later.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: Which marketing agency should I use?

B: I like Marketing World. They usually _____ with some good ideas pretty quickly.

2.

A: Why are you still working? It's late. You should go home.

B: I know, but the design team _____ with some questions which I have to answer before I can go home.

A: Ok. See you tomorrow.

B: See you.

3.

A: Did Professor Khan _____ to you with any answers?

B: Yes, he did. I've already sent you an email about it.

A: Ok. Thanks.

4.

A: We really need to improve our response to ABC Corp if we want to win this contract.

B: Yes, you're right. I'm sure our competitors are _____ to ABC with much better proposals than ours.

A: Ok. Let's get to work!

5.

A: Has John _____ to you about the party?

B: No, he hasn't. I think he's away on business at the moment.

A: Ok. What about Jane?

B: Yes. She's _____ to me already. She's coming to the party.

32. Come back (4)

To remember something you have forgotten temporarily

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes back	be coming back	came back	have/has come back

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

remember

32.1 come back (present tense)

32.1.1 Tom and his friend Richard are chatting over coffee. Richard is complaining that he has been very forgetful lately.

Richard: I can't believe how forgetful I've been lately.

Tom: What have you forgotten?

Richard: I keep forgetting where I've put my keys.

Tom: I never lose my keys, but I often forget people's names. They come back to me eventually, but sometimes it takes me a long time to remember.

Richard: Yeah, that happens to me, too. I must be getting old.

Tom: What are you talking about? You're only 26!

32.1.2 Fatima and Claire are both pregnant and are talking about being forgetful. Some pregnant women feel forgetful, but nobody is sure why this happens to some people.

Fatima: Oh Claire. I've been so forgetful lately.

Claire: Me, too. I can't remember where I've put things.

Fatima: Sometimes I forget what I wanted to buy in the supermarket and then it comes back to me when I'm driving home!

Claire: Oh, poor you!

32.2 be coming back (present progressive)

32.2.1 Mariam wants to buy a nice birthday gift for her sister. Her friend, John Paul recommended a gift website to her a few days ago, but she can't remember the name of the website so she asks John Paul about it.

Mariam: Hey. John Paul. Do you remember that gift website you recommended to me?

John Paul: Yeah. Why?

Mariam: What was the name of the site?

John Paul: Errr.... Oh, I can't remember.

Mariam: I think it began with the letter 'a'.

John Paul: Wait. It's coming back to me. Oh yes! It's 'amazinggiftsforyou.com'

Mariam: Great. Thanks.

John Paul: You're welcome. Hope you find a great gift.

Mariam: I hope I will. It's for my sister's birthday.

32.3 came back (past tense)

32.3.1 Adam and Arthur are friends. It's Sunday and they are enjoying a chat at a local coffee shop. Adam recently started a new job and Arthur is asking him about it.

Adam: So. How's the new job?

Arthur: I like it. It's a bit challenging, but that's good. It stops me from being bored.

Adam: Why is it challenging?

Arthur: Well, I have to use some software that's quite complicated. I used it in a previous job a long time ago, but at first I couldn't remember how to use it. Anyway, after a while it all came back to me. Now I'm ok.

Adam: Great. Glad to hear the job is going well.

Arthur: Thanks.

32.3.2 Tracy and Jo are talking about recent events. Tracy recently went to a party at a friend's house. At the party she spoke to a man who she had met for the first time many years before.

Jo: So. How was the party at Rita's place? I'm sorry I missed it.

Tracy: The party was good, but I met a guy at the party who I dated years and years ago!

Jo: Really? Who?

Tracy: Oh. You don't know him. And it was a disaster so I stopped dating him. Anyway, I started speaking to him at the party, but I didn't recognize him at first. Then it suddenly came back to me! I had dated him, like 20 years ago.

Jo: Oh my gosh. Did he recognize you?

Tracy: Thankfully, no. I just chatted with him for a few minutes and then decided to go home!

Jo: Wow. I wish I had gone to the party!

32.4 will come back (future prediction)

32.4.1 Dan and Sue are talking about a doctor they met at a friend's party.

Dan: Do you remember that doctor we spoke to at Hiro's party?

Sue: Yeah. But, I can't remember her name.

Dan: It was something like 'Olson' or 'Johnson'.

Sue: Give me a minute. I'm sure it'll come back to me.

Dan: Ok. I'll make some more coffee.

Sue: Thanks.

32.5 be going to come back (future prediction)

32.5.1 Trey is on vacation. His friend Phil has suggested that they rent some bicycles and take a tour of the city.

Phil: You know how to ride a bike, right?

Trey: Sure. It's been a long time since I last rode one though.

Phil: Don't worry. It's going to come back to you really quickly.

Trey: I hope so. I don't want to hit anyone!

Phil: Just don't go too fast. You'll be fine.

32.6 have come back (present perfect)

32.6.1 Emily recommended a textbook to her friend, Olivia, who has to take a math class at college. Olivia has forgotten the name of the textbook so she asks Emily about it.

Olivia: Hi Emily. What was the name of that textbook you recommended to me?

Emily: Oh, that one. Um, I can't remember the exact title. I used it last year and now I've forgotten. Can you text me later? It might come back to me.

Olivia: Sure. No problem.

Two hours later.

Olivia: Hi Emily. Has the name of that book come back to you yet?

Emily: Yes. It was 'Math Foundation and Practice'.

Olivia: Great. Thanks!

Emily: You're welcome. Good luck with the course.

Olivia: Thanks. I'm going to need it. I hate math!

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: What was the name of that really sexy guy at the bar last night?

B: The one we talked to?

A: Yeah.

B: I can't remember. Was it 'Sam'?

A: I don't think so. Oh, it'll _____ to me in a minute.

2.

A: I never forget a face, but I'm really bad at remembering names. They _____ to me eventually, but sometimes I have a conversation with someone I know in the supermarket and I really can't remember their name!

B: I know how you feel. I just can't remember book or movie titles. If I think for a long time, they sometimes _____ to me, but I usually have to Google them.

3.

A: Have you used Team S software before?

B: Yes, but it was a couple of years ago.

A: Well the basic stuff hasn't changed. I'm sure it'll _____ to you fairly quickly. Don't worry.

B: Ok.

4.

A: Hi. You remember I asked you for the name of that website yesterday, but you couldn't remember it? Has it _____ to you yet?

B: Yes. Sorry. I was going to email you about it. The website is called 'great-bargains.com'.

A: Thanks!

B: No problem.

5.

A: Hi Josh. I've tried and tried to remember the name of that guy I met at the conference, but I'm afraid it won't _____ to me.

B: Don't worry. I'll do some research online.

A: Ok. Sorry about that.

B: No problem.

33. Come back (5)

To be successful or effective again after being in a bad situation
(especially in a competitive situation like sports)

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
come/comes back	be coming back	came back	have/has come back

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

rebound; bounce back; return

33.1 come back (present tense)

33.1.1 Robert and Charlie are rugby fans. They are talking about a famous rugby player who has been injured and cannot play.

Robert: So, Jameson's injury sounds quite serious. Do you think he will recover?

Charlie: Yeah. Sure, he will. Lots of rugby players come back after an injury and go on to have long international careers.

Robert: Yeah, you're right. How long will he take to recover?

Charlie: I read six to nine months.

Robert: Wow. Poor guy.

Charlie: Yeah. It really sucks for him.

33.2 came back (past tense)

33.2.1 Fred and Sachiko are talking about tennis and famous tennis players.

Fred: Who do you think is going to win Wimbledon this year?

Sachiko: I think Jones is going to win the men's and I think Collins is going to win the women's.

Fred: Why Collins?

Sachiko: Well, she lost badly at Wimbledon in 2013, but came back fantastically in 2014. I just think she's really good.

Fred: Maybe you're right? We'll have to wait and see.

33.2.2 Wendy is talking to her financial advisor about investing in shares.

Wendy: So, Clayton, where should I put my money this year?

Clayton: I think Megacorp is a good pick. It performed poorly last year so the share price really dropped, but now they have a new CEO and came back well in the first quarter of this year. Profits are up considerably.

Wendy: Ok, then. Let's go with Megacorp then.

33.3 will come back (future prediction)

33.3.1 Trevor and Jing are discussing the soccer World Cup.

Jing: I really think England is going to get into the semifinals this time.

Trevor: That's optimistic. They lost really badly to Germany.

Jing: They did, but I'm sure they'll come back and win against Spain to get through to the semifinals.

Trevor: Want to bet on it?

Jing: Sure. The loser has to buy dinner for the winner.

Trevor: You're on!

33.4 be going to come back (future prediction)

33.4.1 Greg and Hiro are talking about a famous international footballer who recently broke his leg.

Greg: Do you think Marino will come back from this injury and be able to play at international level again?

Hiro: Yeah. I think he's going to come back and play in the next World Cup.

Greg: That's only two years away.

Hiro: I'm sure he'll be fine by then.

33.5 have come back (present perfect)

33.5.1 Priscilla is a financial advisor who speaks on a morning TV show in Australia.

TV show host: So Priscilla, is there any more news about the ABC Corp financial scandal?

Priscilla: Yes. It seems the firm's chief financial officer knew that the company's accounts were full of inaccuracies. The firm's share price has been dropping like a stone since yesterday.

TV show host: Has a major company ever come back from such a terrible scandal?

Priscilla: Yes, there are some companies which have come back from similar scandals and become profitable again. Let's hope that ABC Corp can also repair the damage and start making profits again.

33.5.2 Roger is a sports commentator on the radio. He's talking to the radio presenter about a famous formula one driver who was in a crash two years before.

Presenter: Hello Roger. Do you have the latest sports headlines for us?

Roger: I certainly do. I'm pleased to tell you that after many months of physical therapy, Tim Miller has come back from serious injury and will be racing formula one this year.

Presenter: That's great news for Miller fans.

Roger: Yes, it is indeed. I look forward to seeing him race.

Presenter: Me, too.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: Do you think XYZ Corp will _____ from this scandal?

B: It's unlikely. Their share price has hit rock bottom.

2.

A: Who do you think will win the World Cup this time?

B: I'm not sure. Spain has _____ from their loss against Italy, but I still think Germany is the strongest team.

3.

A: Should I invest my money in ABC shares?

B: I wouldn't. I don't think the company is doing very well.

A: Their profits were down two years ago, but they've _____ well and profits have been good this quarter.

B: Really? Maybe I'll take a look at their accounts online.

4.

A: I really respect David Pocock. He's such a strong person.

B: Of course he's strong. He's a rugby player!

A: No. I mean he has strength of character. He has _____ after not just one knee injury, but two. He's amazing.

B: Yes, he is.

5.

A: I think Freeman is finished as a golfer.

B: No way! He's going to _____ and win the next European Tour.
I'm sure of it.

A: If you say so. But, I'm not convinced.

34. Get to (1)

To arrive somewhere

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
get/gets to	be getting to	got to	have/has gotten to

Nonseparable

(with this meaning)

Verbs of similar meaning:

arrive

34.1 get to (present tense)

34.1.1 Karl and Freeda are talking about their morning commute to work.

Karl: You are always already in the office when I get to work. You must leave home super early.

Freeda: Me? No. I just take a few shortcuts. I usually get to the office at about 8:30.

Karl: I think I need to find some shortcuts!

34.1.2 Susan is trying to decide which train she should catch to travel to a job interview. She's talking to her partner about it.

Susan: I'm so nervous about my interview tomorrow. I'm worried I might be late.

Partner: Just take a slightly earlier train then.

Susan: I'm going to check the train times online.... Ok. If I catch the 9:30 train, it gets to London Waterloo station at 10am*. That should give me enough time.

* Here we normally use "gets" instead of "will get" because the train arrives at this time regularly, following a fixed timetable.

34.2 be getting to (present continuous for fixed plans)

34.2.1 Dave is going to a party this evening at his friend, John's place. He is talking to another friend, Claire, about the party.

Dave: Are you going to John's party tonight?

Claire: Yep. Might be a bit late though. I have to finish some work at the office first.

Dave: What time are you getting to the party then?

Claire: About eight.

Dave: John's asked me to be there from six, but I think that's a bit early for me. I'll get there for eight, too. Do you want to meet me at the station and then we can go together?

Claire: Sure. I'll meet you at Angel tube station at 7:45.

Dave: Great. See you later.

Claire: See you.

34.3 got to (past tense)

34.3.1 Dee is going to see her friend Lucy. She planned to arrive at the station near Lucy's house at 11am but the train was delayed.

Dee: I'm so sorry I'm late! A train broke down in front of my train so we had to wait for ages. And my phone's battery died so I couldn't text you.

Lucy: Oh no. Are you ok?

Dee: I'm a bit stressed to be honest. The train didn't get to Weybridge until 10:45 and then I had to wait for a train to Hampton. We finally got to Hampton at 11:30 but then we had to wait to go into the station!

Lucy: Typical British trains! Poor you. Let's go and get a nice cup of coffee.

Dee: Great idea.

34.4 will get to (future prediction)

34.4.1 Shu-fen and Lucas are taking a road trip through the mountains. They plan to stop at a small town called Roysville for lunch.

Shu-fen: What time do you think we'll get to Roysville?

Lucas: I'm not sure. I think we'll get there around 1:30.

Shu-fen: I think I'm going to get hungry before that. Can we stop at a convenience store on the way?

Lucas: Sure. If we pass one.

Shu-fen: Great.

34.4.2 Zoe is driving in the car with her children. They are going to her sister's house.

Son: Mom. Will we get there soon?*

Zoe: No. We won't get there for a while. Why?

Son: I really need to go to the bathroom.

Zoe: Okay. Hang on. I'll try to find a Gas station.

* We say 'get there', not 'get to there'. Similarly, we say 'get here', not 'get to here'.

34.5 be going to get to (future prediction)

34.5.1 John and his friends Chad and David are driving all the way from California to New York. John's car is quite old. It starts to have engine trouble. Chad and David are worried that they won't be able to go to New York.

John: Uh-oh. Sounds like we have car trouble.

Chad: What's up?

John: I'm not sure. The engine warning light is on.

David: What? We're not gonna* get to New York at this rate.

John: Don't panic. I'll find a garage.

David: Are we gonna get there either?

John: Of course we're gonna get there. Don't worry. I've had engine trouble lots of times before with this car. It's fine!

Chad and David: What!?

* “gonna” is often used as a shortened form of “going to”

34.6 have gotten to (present perfect)

34.6.1 Mr. Khan is scheduled to meet Peter at his office at 11am. It is now 10:55am. Peter had to go to a meeting downtown and is late returning to the office. He calls his secretary and asks him to tell Mr. Khan that he will be there soon.

Secretary: Hello. Peter Grisom's office.

Peter: Hi, Rob. It's me. Has Mr. Khan gotten there already?

Secretary: No. He's not gotten here yet. What's up?

Peter: I'm stuck in traffic. I should be there soon, but could you take Mr. Khan to the meeting room and make him a coffee?

Secretary: Sure. No problem. See you soon.

Peter: Thanks, Rob. See you.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: Excuse me. What time does the train _____ London Waterloo?

B: The train should _____ Waterloo at 10:12, sir.

A: Thanks.

B: You're welcome.

2.

A: Oh no. The gas light has come on. We need to find a gas station.

B: Are we gonna _____ a gas station before we run out of gas?

A: I hope so. The GPS says there's a gas station about a mile from here.

B: Phew! Thank goodness.

3.

A: Hello. Ms. Mills office. Can I help you?

B: Hi, Tommy. It's me. Has Ms. Thompson _____ yet?

A: No, not yet. Are you going to be late?

B: Yes. I'm stuck downtown. Could you take care of Ms. Thompson for 15 minutes?

A: Sure, no problem. I'll get her some coffee.

B: Thanks.

4.

A: Did you _____ the meeting on time?

B: Yes, we did. The traffic was terrible but our taxi driver knew some shortcuts, thankfully.

A: Wow. Sounds stressful.

B: It was kind of exciting, actually!

5.

A: What time do you usually _____ work?

B: Err. I think around 8:45? Why?

A: Could I catch a ride with you tomorrow? My car's broken down and it's in the garage until Thursday.

B: Sure, no problem. I'll pick you up outside the mall near your house.

A: Thanks. What time?

B: It's a bit of a detour so I should probably pick you up at 8:15. Then we should _____ the office on time.

A: Sure. Thanks a lot.

B: You're welcome.

35. Get to (2)

Used to ask how to go somewhere, for example, the route and/or the method of transportation

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
get/gets to	be getting to	got to	have/has gotten to

Nonseparable

(with this meaning)

Verbs of similar meaning:

travel to; journey to

35.1 get to (present tense)

35.1.1 Ethan and his girlfriend Sasha are on vacation in Rome. They are looking for the Colosseum but they can't find it so they ask a passer-by.

Ethan: Excuse me. I'm sorry, but do you speak English? How do we get to the Colosseum from here?

Passer-by: The Colosseum? Hmmm. It's very far from here. You should take the bus with me. I'm going to somewhere not far from the Colosseum.

Ethan: Really? Thank you!

Passerby: Not at all.

35.1.2 Rita and Chika are on vacation. They are looking at a map of Paris and they are discussing what they plan to do that day.

Rita: So, first we go to the Eiffel Tower by metro and then we go to this famous church. I can't pronounce it.

Chika: Ok. How do we get there*? On foot? It looks kind of far from the Eiffel Tower.

Rita: Let's check directions on Google.

Chika: Oh. I didn't know you could do that for other countries. I thought it was just the U.S.

Rita: No. Pretty sure it works in Europe too.

* “get there” is correct and “get to there” is incorrect. Likewise, “get here” is correct and “get to here” is incorrect.

35.1.3 Wayne has just returned from Machu Pichu, the world famous historical site, high in the Andes in Peru. He is talking to his friends in London about his trip.

Daniella: How was your South America trip? I saw your photos on Facebook. They look amazing!

Wayne: It was an amazing trip. My favorite part was definitely Machu Pichu.

Daniella: That's the ancient city on top of a mountain, right?

Wayne: Yep.

Daniella: How on earth did you get there? By helicopter?

Wayne. No. We took the train, then the bus and finally walked the last bit.

Daniella: Sounds exhausting.

Wayne: It was. But it was so worth it.

35.2 be getting to (present continuous for a fixed plan)

35.2.1 Diana is having a party to celebrate her wedding engagement to her boyfriend. Her friends Emily and Trisha are talking about the party.

Emily: I'm so excited about Diana's party. It's gonna be awesome.

Trisha: I want to go but I have to drive so I won't be able to drink anything. How are you getting to the party?

Emily: Oh, I'm driving too, but me and some others are staying at a hotel so we can drink at the party.

Trisha: That's a great idea!

35.3 got to (past tense)

35.3.1 Jill is talking with her friend Lucy about a train strike that happened the day before.

Jill: It took me twice as long as usual to get to work yesterday. I had to take the bus because of the train strike. How about you?

Lucy: I got to work by car.

Jill: You don't drive do you?

Lucy: I do. Very rarely, but I do.

35.4 will get to (future prediction)

35.4.1 Rob and Arjun's friends have invited them to a party. Unfortunately, Rob's car is being fixed so they can't use it to go to the party.

Arjun: I really wanna go to this party, but how will we get there? Your car is out of action and I can't afford a taxi.

Rob: Why don't we just take the bus?

Arjun: I've never taken the bus before. Do you know how to get to the party from here by bus?

Rob: It can't be that hard. Let's Google it.

Arjun: Ok.

35.5 be going to get to (future prediction)

35.5.1 Ali and Anna's relatives are coming to visit them, but the weather has been very bad and the road to their house is blocked by snow. Ali and Anna are worried that their relatives won't be able to come to their house.

Ali: Oh my goodness! Have you seen this snow? The main road must be completely blocked.

Anna: How are my parents going to get here? They're planning to get a rental car from the airport! My dad's not used to driving in snow. He might have an accident.

Ali: You're right. I think we need to pick them up from the airport ourselves. Hopefully they'll clear the main road tomorrow and we'll be able to drive. If the main road is still blocked, I think your parents will just have to stay at an airport hotel for the night.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: We're taking the train to Charlottesville, but how are we _____ the hotel from the station?

B: I thought we could just take a taxi.

A: Ok.

2.

A: Excuse me. How do I _____ the Guggenheim museum from here?

B: I'm sorry. I'm also a tourist. I don't know.

A: Oh, ok. Thanks anyway.

B: Good luck.

3.

A: How did you _____ the other side of that river? Did you swim?

B: No. There are crocodiles so you have to hire a boat to cross over.

4.

A: How did we _____ here?

B: We're home, sweetheart.

A: Are we?

B: You don't remember anything, do you? I think you had a little too much to drink.

5.

A: Have you been to this restaurant before? (*A shows tablet screen to B*)

B: What's the name?

A: Indian Heaven.

B: Yes, I have.

A: How do you _____ there?

B: Oh, I'm not sure. A friend drove me there the last time I went.

A: Ah. I see.

36. Get to (3)

Used for asking where something or someone is, or has gone to

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
get/gets to	not used with this meaning	got to	have/has gotten to

Nonseparable

(with this meaning)

Verbs of similar meaning:

go to; disappeared to

Used mainly in the present, present perfect and past tense. It is not used, with this meaning, in the present continuous, past continuous, or any future tenses.

36.1 get to (present tense)

36.1.1 Adrian's boss, Farah, is looking for Adrian, but she can't find him. She asks Adrian's co-worker, Richard, if he knows where Adrian is.

Farah: Hi Richard. Have you seen Adrian?

Richard: Not since this morning's meeting.

Farah: I swear that whenever I need to find him, he disappears! Where on earth does he get to?

Richard: Have you checked the records office?

Farah: What would he be doing there?

Richard: I think he's been going there recently to do some research.

Farah: Ok. Thanks. I'll check.

36.2 got to (past tense)

36.2.1 Darren and his friend Gavin were walking Darren's dog, Spot, in the park and it ran away. 30 minutes later his dog suddenly came back.

Darren: Spot ! Where did you get to? We've been looking all over for you.

Gavin: He's covered in mud. Wherever he got to, it looks like he had a good time.

Darren: Well, I can guarantee he's not going to have a good time in the bath!

36.2.2 Tim went to a party at his friend's house last night and came home very late. He was so tired that he slept in his clothes. His mother came up to wake him in the morning and discovered this.

Mother: I don't know where Tim got to last night. He slept in his clothes!

Father: I think he went to a party at Jacob's.

Mother: He must have come back very late. Can you please ask him to at least get undressed before bed!

Father: Ok, ok.

36.3 have gotten to (present perfect)

36.3.1 Amelia can't find her glasses. She asks her husband if he knows where they are.

Amelia: John. Do you know where my glasses have gotten to?

John: Have you lost them again? You should tie them around your neck!

Amelia: You're not helping.

John: Have you checked the drawer next to the bed?

Amelia: No. I'll have a look.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: Where did you _____ ? I've been looking for you for ages.

B: Sorry. I was in that clothes store over there.

A: I went in there, but I didn't see you.

B: Sorry. I was in the changing rooms trying on clothes.

2.

A: Have you seen Claire?

B: No, sorry I haven't.

A: Where does she _____ every lunchtime?

B: I'm not sure, but I think she goes to a yoga class sometimes.

3.

A: Honey. Do you know where my keys have _____?

B: You left them in the bathroom so I put them back on the key hook.

A: In the bathroom? I'm getting pretty forgetful.

37. Get to (4)

To sadden, upset, disturb or annoy someone

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
get/gets to	be getting to	got to	have/has gotten to

Nonseparable

(with this meaning)

Verbs of similar meaning:

agitate; disturb; trouble

37.1 get to (present tense)

37.1.1 Emma and Ruby are both mothers with young children. They are talking about taking care of their families.

Emma: How have you been, Ruby?

Ruby: I'm so exhausted.

Emma: What's up?

Ruby: Nothing new. Being a stay at home mom is far harder than anybody realizes.

Emma: I know, right?

Ruby: Sometimes it gets to me. I give so much time and energy to everyone else, that there is nothing left for me.

Emma: You poor thing. I know exactly how you feel.

37.1.2 Jing is upset because she didn't get the promotion she was hoping for. The promotion was given to somebody else. Jing is talking about this to her colleague, Adam.

Jing: I'm so pissed off.

Adam: What's wrong?

Jing: They gave the promotion to Somchai.

Adam: But you so deserve that promotion. You worked so hard.

Jing: I know, right? What gets to me, is that she has only been here for six months.

Adam: Unbelievable!

37.2 be getting to (present continuous)

37.2.1 Wendy and Travis are talking about their daughter. Her classmates are teasing her and she is upset and doesn't want to go to school.

Wendy: I think we should speak to her teacher about this. The teasing is really getting to her.

Travis: I think you're right. She used to love going to school.

Wendy: Ok. I'll make an appointment with her teacher.

37.2.2 Gary is talking to his work friend, Paula. Gary's job is extremely stressful so he is thinking about quitting.

Gary: I can't believe how stressful yesterday was.

Paula: Oh no. What's up?

Gary: Nothing in particular. It's just the stress is getting to me. I feel sick every day and I can't sleep.

Paula: That sounds serious. Have you been to the doctor?

Gary: No. I know what I need to do. I need to quit my job and find something less stressful!

Paula: Maybe I should too!

37.3 got to (past tense)

37.3.1 Mary is talking to her friend, Wei, about her father who used to be a teacher at a high school.

Wei: My dad was a cop in Hong Kong before he retired.

Mary: Didn't you want to be a cop like your dad?

Wei: No. Really not my scene. How about your dad?

Mary: He used to be a high school teacher, but he decided to retire early.

Wei: How come?

Mary: The bad pay and lack of respect from parents got to him in the end and he decided he'd had enough so he quit.

Wei: I'd hate to be a teacher. I'm sure it feels great to inspire children, but there are so many annoying kids out there who just aren't interested in learning.

Mary: I think my dad loved the kids. He just didn't like their parents or the education system.

Wei: I see.

37.3.2 Trey is talking to Jemma about her job at Google. Jemma used to run her own tech company but decided to sell it to Google and work there instead.

Trey: I think it's so cool that you work for Google.

Jemma: It's no big deal, really.

Trey: It is. But, how come you decided to sell your company?

Jemma: Well, to be honest, I was doing everything from cleaning to the payroll as well as being CEO. In the end, the workload just got to me.

Trey: I see.

Jemma: When Google offered to buy the company and allow me to continue managing it, I jumped at the chance. Now I can concentrate on making important decisions.

Trey: Nice. Fancy giving me a job? I make great coffee!

Jemma: Ha ha. You hate computers.

Trey: Yeah. Well, I figure I could make an exception for you.

37.4 be getting to (past continuous)

37.4.1 Kenny is talking to his friend Trevor about why he moved from his village to a big city.

Trevor: So how long have you been living in the city.

Kenny: It must be five years now.

Trevor: Really? Already five years? Wow. I've been here six. I moved here for work, but what made you move here? I thought you liked living in the countryside.

Kenny: It's difficult being gay in a small village. The gossiping and discrimination was getting to me. I wanted to live somewhere where I could be free and open.

Trevor: I can understand that. Well, I'm glad you moved to the city!

Kenny: Me, too!

37.4.2 Jennifer used to live in the suburbs, but she decided to move to the city center. She's talking to a friend at work about this.

Friend: So, I hear that you're moving downtown.

Jennifer: Yes, that's right.

Friend: I bet the rent is going to be astronomical.

Jennifer: Yes, it will be.

Friend: So, why move? Don't you like the suburbs?

Jennifer: Well, it's simple, really. The commute was really getting to me. I couldn't stand wasting four hours of my time sitting in my damn car every day. I just decided my time was more valuable than money.

Friend: I hear you. Great if you can afford it!

37.5 will get to (future prediction)

37.5.1 Tara and her friend Ursula both work as admin assistants at a large company. Tara is talking to Ursula about possibly moving to a different department.

Tara: I'm thinking of applying for a transfer to the Sales Department.

Ursula: Why would you want to work there?

Tara: I'm kind of bored here. I want to learn some new stuff.

Ursula: My friend Janet works in the Sales Department. She said it's full of people with bad attitudes.

Tara: Really?

Ursula: Yeah. You're quite a sensitive person. I think if you work with them, they'll get to you.

Tara: I think I'll have a conversation with Janet. I'd like to ask her about it directly.

Ursula: Yeah. I think you should.

37.6.1 Jasmine is talking to her friend, Clara, who is going to have a baby soon. Jasmine is giving Clara some advice.

Jasmine: After the baby is born, I think you should join a mother and baby group.

Clara: Why? Won't I be too busy?

Jasmine: You will be very busy, but all that diaper changing and lack of sleep is going to get to you. Trust me. You'll need a circle of friends who can sympathize and offer support.

Clara: Ok. Can you recommend anywhere?

Jasmine: Sure. I'll put you in touch with the woman who organizes the group I went to.

Clara: Thanks.

Jasmine: My pleasure.

37.7 have gotten to (present perfect)

37.7.1 Bruce and Dan are old friends. Dan still lives in the UK, but Bruce recently moved to New York City. Dan is asking Bruce what it's like to live in New York.

Dan: So Bruce. What's it like living in the Big Apple?

Bruce: I'm really enjoying it for the most part.

Dan: Good. I imagine it's really crowded. That might get to you eventually. I know you don't really like crowds.

Bruce: Yes. It already has gotten to me actually. I think I'll adjust in time though. The job I'm doing here is just so exciting, I will tolerate the crowds!

Dan: I'm glad you're enjoying yourself. I'll have to come and visit you when I get time.

Bruce: Please do.

37.7.2 Emily recently moved to an apartment not far from a busy airport. Her mother is talking to her about the new neighborhood.

Mother: So how do you like your new neighborhood?

Emily: It's ok. There are a few shops nearby and the apartment is right next to the subway station so it's very convenient.

Mother: Has the noise gotten to you yet?

Emily: Not at all. I really don't notice it.

Mother: Oh, that good. I was worried you might not be able to sleep.

Emily: I'm fine, mom.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: I have to talk to our neighbors about their loud music. It's really _____ me.

B: I couldn't sleep at all last night. Let's go over there this evening.

A: Ok.

2.

A: What really _____ me is that he doesn't have half your talent or experience. Why did your boss give him the job and not you?

B: Because my boss and I don't like each other. I think it's time to find a better job and a better boss.

3.

A: All this commuting is starting to _____ me.

B: Well, you have two choices. Move your job, or move house.

A: I love my job, so I guess I'll have to move house.

4.

A: Why is mom in such a bad mood, dad?

B: We both get tired of telling you kids to clean up your mess. It _____ your mom, sometimes. We have to work hard all day and then we come home to a house that looks like a war zone. Go and clean up your stuff in the lounge and take it to your room.

A: Ok dad. Sorry.

5.

A: Why did you apply for a transfer?

B: The low morale and bad attitudes in my last office were really _____ me so I decided to move.

A: How do you like it here?

B: It's much better, thanks.

A: Glad to hear it.

38. Get to (4)

To have the opportunity to do something

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
get/gets to	be getting to	got to	have/has gotten to

Nonseparable

(with this meaning)

Verbs of similar meaning:

have the opportunity to; have the chance to

38.1 get to (present tense)

38.1.1 Jay is complaining to his parents because they are going to pay for his older brother to go backpacking in Europe over the summer, but Jay is not allowed to go with him.

Jay: It's not fair. Why does he get to go to Europe and I don't?

Mother: Jay. Peter is 18. You're only 15. You're too young. You can go when you're a little older.

Jay: But, I wanna go this year.

Father: Listen to your mother, son. You're too young.

38.1.2 Ronnie is with her daughters at Disney World. It's already 7pm and Ronnie is thinking about taking the girls home. Her daughter, Aisha, wants to stay until 8pm to watch the fireworks show.

Ronnie: Ok, girls. Time to go home.

Aisha: But mom! I want to stay until eight so we get to see the fireworks.

Ronnie: Hmmm. How long is the show?

Aisha: It's only ten minutes. Can we stay, please?

Ronnie: Oh, ok. But, straight to bed when we get home!

Aisha: Yay!

38.1.3 Tim is talking to his friend, Dawn, about sending his kids to summer camp.

Tim: I'm thinking of letting my kids go to summer camp for the first time.

Dawn: I never went to summer camp. Is it fun, or is it hard work for the kids?

Tim: A bit of both. The kids get to do lots of interesting activities like hiking, pitching a tent and building a campfire.

Dawn: Sounds interesting. Maybe I'll ask my kids if they're interested in going, too.

Tim: My kids would love to have some friends to go to camp with.

Dawn: Ok. I'll ask them.

38.2 be getting to (present continuous)

38.2.1 Everyone in Wendy's class is doing two weeks of work experience with local businesses. Wendy meets a friend of hers at the mall at the weekend and they talk about their experiences.

Wendy: So how do you like your work experience so far?

Lisa: It's pretty interesting. How about you?

Wendy: Really good, actually. I'm getting to learn lots of really useful skills and I'm getting to meet some really interesting people who've given me some career advice.

Lisa: Great! You're lucky. My work experience hasn't been that useful so far.

38.3 got to (past tense)

38.3.1 Gemma went on a date with a friend of a friend. Unfortunately the date didn't go well. She is talking about the date with her friend Carol.

Carol: How was the date? He looked cute on Facebook.

Gemma: Well he was cute but he was really really boring.

Carol: Maybe he's shy.

Gemma: No. Definitely boring. But, he brought his beautiful dog with him so at least I got to play with the dog.

Carol: You should date his dog!

Gemma: Ha ha. That's not funny.

38.3.2 Freda has just returned home from a work conference. She's talking about it with her partner.

Partner: So how did it go?

Freda: On the whole it was really good.

Partner: Great.

Freda: It's a shame I couldn't stay until the end. I didn't get to speak with Dr. Emmet.

Partner: I'm sure she'll be at the next conference.

Freda: She will.

38.3.3 Dan's cousin is visiting with him. They are talking about good places to eat out.

Dan: You like desserts, right?

Cousin: Sure. Of course.

Dan: I went to a great restaurant a few months ago, but I was on a diet so I didn't get to try their amazing desserts. We should go!

Cousin: No more diet?

Dan: No. All done. Let's eat cake!

38.4 be getting to (past continuous)

38.4.1 Sarah and Mohammad are friends who haven't met for a long time. They are having dinner and telling each other their news.

Mohammad: So what's new with you?

Sarah: Actually, I have a new job!

Mohammad: Really? Me, too!

Sarah: Wow. Why did you quit your last job. I thought you liked it.

Mohammad: I did at first, but after a while I wasn't getting to do anything interesting so I decided to look for another job. How about you?

Sarah: Well, I decided to take a less busy job because I wasn't getting to have a social life.

Mohammad: Good idea, if you can afford to.

Sarah: Well, I have less money now, but I'm much happier.

Mohammad: Good.

38.5 will get to (future prediction)

38.5.1 Johan is happy because his wife has a new job where she will not travel as much as before so he will have the chance to spend more time with her.

Johan: I'm really happy you have a new job, sweetheart.

Wife: Me, too. I really didn't like traveling so much. I hate living out of a suitcase.

Johan: I'm just excited because I'll get to spend more time with you.

Wife: I know. Me, too.

38.6 be going to get to (future prediction)

38.6.1 Greg's children, Tom and Helen are very excited because they are going to an amusement park. They are talking to each other about what they are going to do at the park.

Tom: I'm going to ride on the roller coaster.

Helen: We can't. We're not tall enough.

Tom: Dad. Are we going to get to ride the roller coaster?

Greg: I'm not sure, Tom. We need to check the height limit.

Tom: But, what else can we do if we can't ride the roller coaster?

Greg: Don't worry. You're going to get to do some really fun stuff.

Helen: I hope so. I want to go to the haunted dungeon.

Tom: Me, too!

38.7 be getting to (present continuous for fixed or scheduled future plan/promise)

38.7.1 Pam and Jose are getting married soon.

Pam: Why are you smiling like you just won the lottery?

Jose: Am I? I'm just happy.

Pam: How come you're so happy?

Jose: I'm happy because Im getting to marry the woman of my dreams next week.

Pam: Oh, that's sweet. Do I know her?

Jose: Ha ha. Very funny.

38.8 have gotten to (present perfect)

38.8.1 Paula is talking to her friend, Joanne, on Skype. Paula is currently traveling around India with her partner. Joanne is asking Paula questions about their trip.

Joanne: So, how's the trip going?

Paula: It's been great so far. My Indian friends have been great and have shown us around so we've gotten to see a lot of really cool stuff. We wouldn't have seen half of it if we'd been using a guide book or the internet.

Joanne: Sounds great. Have you gotten to dress up in a Sari?

Paula: Not yet. I'm hoping I'll get to do that next week sometime.

Joanne: Oh, I'm so envious.

Paula: Wish you were here!

Joanne: Me, too!

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: How was the concert?

B: It was fantastic. I _____ meet the band afterwards!

A: Cool.

2.

A: Would you recommend living overseas for a year after graduating university?

B: Absolutely. I've _____ do some really amazing things while I've been overseas. I would recommend it to anyone.

3.

A: Mom. Are we going to meet Mickey Mouse?

B: Yes, we are sweetie. And we're going to _____ ride a roller coaster, too!

A: Yay!

4.

A: Why did you change your job?

B: I wanted more responsibility. I _____ manage some interesting projects, but I didn't _____ make the big decisions myself.

A: I see.

5.

A: Why do I have to do this work experience, mom?

B: Because everyone in your class has to do it.

A: But, it'll be boring.

B: No, it won't. And besides, you'll _____ learn a lot of new things and meet people who'll hopefully give you some good career advice.

39. Go back (1)

To return to a person, place, subject, or activity

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
go/goes back	be going back	went back	have/has gone back

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

return; resume; revisit

39.1 go back

(present tense)

39.1.1 Hosna works in London, but is originally from Egypt. She is talking to a friend, Eric, about visiting her family.

Eric: I'm going back to Norway to visit my family next week.

Hosna: Nice. Have a good time.

Eric: I'm sure I will. Thanks. How about you? How often do you go back home to see your family?

Hosna: Not that often. They prefer to come to London because they like to go shopping.

Eric: Really?

Hosna: Yes. But I miss the food back home so I go back at least once a year.

39.1.2 Feng and Peter are high school students and they are talking about where they like to go on vacation.

Feng: My family likes to go somewhere new on vacation every year.

Peter: That sounds awesome. Unfortunately, my parents, love to go back to the same place every summer.

Feng: Where is that?

Peter: We go camping in the Yosemite National Park.

Feng: Sounds cool. I wish I could go camping.

Peter: The park is beautiful, but I'm not that fond of camping.

39.1.3 Ben is having a meeting with his team.

Jennifer: And that concludes the presentation....

Ben: Thanks Jennifer. Very interesting. Now, let's go back to the first slide in the presentation. I want to be clear on the objectives for the meeting.

Jennifer: Sure. Just give me a second.

Ben: Thanks.

39.2 be going back (present continuous)

39.2.1 Mary and Ramon work in the same office. They sit next to each other. Mary is already sitting at her desk when Ramon comes into the office.

Mary: Hi Ramon.

Ramon: Hi Mary.

Mary: Did you have a good weekend?

Ramon: Errr... yes... Oh no!

Mary: What's up? Where are you going?

Ramon: I'm going back home*. I forgot my thumb drive. It has all my important files on it.

Mary: Oh no. See you later.

Ramon: Bye.

* "go back home" is correct; "go back to home" is incorrect.

39.2.2 Deven and Gabrielle are driving home from the movie theater when Deven suddenly turns the car around.

Gabrielle: What's going on? Aren't we going home?

Deven: Sorry. We're going back to the movie theater. I just realized I left my baseball cap behind.

Gabrielle: You're sure you left it at the movie theater and not at McDonalds?

Deven: Yeah. I remember taking it off during the movie and I didn't put it back on.

39.2.3 Ben and Dan have just left their apartment building. It is sunny, but the wind is quite cold.

Dan: Oh, it's much colder than it looked from inside. I'm going back to get my sweatshirt.

Ben: Ok. I'll wait for you by the bus stop.

Dan: I'll be quick. Don't go without me!

Ben: You'd better hurry. The bus will be here soon.

Dan: Ok.

39.2.4 Min-seo is chairing an important meeting at her workplace.

Min-seo: Let's keep to the point. We're going back to the previous discussion. We need to focus because we don't have much time.

Travis: Min-seo is right. We need to make a decision on this point before the end of the meeting.

39.3 be going back (future fixed/scheduled plan)

39.3.1 Audrey is talking to her friend, Pat about her husband's parents who have been staying with her for a long time.

Pat: How long have your in-laws been visiting with you?

Audrey: Three weeks!

Pat: Wow, that's a long time.

Audrey: Tell me about it. They're going back tomorrow, thank God.

Pat: Excellent. You should celebrate.

Audrey: I will. I've already bought some wine and chocolates!

39.3.2 Dave is talking to his colleague, Heather, about the software that they use in the office. Dave doesn't like it.

Dave: This new accounting software sucks!

Heather: It does. Actually, management has decided to go back to the previous software.

Dave: Great! When?

Heather: We're going back to it next month.

Dave: That's great news. You've made my day!

Heather: No problem.

39.4 went back (past tense)

39.4.1 Jim is a doctor and has volunteered with Medecins Sans Frontieres in several war zones. He is now living back in the US. He's talking with a friend about his experiences.

Jasmine: You volunteered overseas, right?

Jim: I did.

Jasmine: Do you miss it? You must have seen some terrible things.

Jim: I did indeed, but I always went back because I knew I was helping people and it felt good.

Jasmine: That's so amazing.

Jim: You could volunteer, too. You're a great doctor.

Jasmine: I'm not brave enough to be a doctor in a war zone.

Jim: Well. It's not for everyone.

39.4.2 Jack and Tess live together. Tess has gone to the supermarket to buy some groceries.

Tess: I'm home.

Jack: You were a long time. Is everything ok. I thought you only went to buy a few groceries.

Tess: I did. I was nearly home and then I realized I'd forgotten to buy tomatoes so I went back to the store.

Jack: Ah. I know how much you love tomatoes.

Tess: Right? You can't have a salad without tomatoes.

39.5 be going back (past continuous)

39.5.1 Tom is talking to his friend, Roger, on the phone about an unpleasant experience he has just had.

Roger: Hi Tom. What's up? It's kind of late.

Tom: I'm sorry Roger. I'm just in shock.

Roger: What happened?

Tom: I was going back to my apartment when this guy jumped out in front of me and told me to give him my wallet and phone.

Roger: Are you ok?

Tom: I'm not hurt, but I'm pretty shaken up.

Roger: I'll come over now. Call the police. The guy might still be in the area.

Tom: Ok. I'll do that.

Roger: Stay at home. I'll be there soon.

39.5.2 Kieran has just come back home from a long vacation. He is talking to his friend, Joe, about his trip.

Joe: So how were your travels?

Kieran: I ended up going to Germany.

Joe: I thought you went to France.

Kieran: I did, but I met a girl in France.

Joe: Uh-huh. And?

Kieran: She was from Germany and was going back there and she invited me to go with her.

Joe: Cool!

Kieran: Better than cool. I'm in love.

Joe: Oh my God. Seriously?

39.6.1 will go back (future offer of help)

39.6.1.1 Claire and Fred have just left their apartment building.

Claire: Oh no! I've forgotten my phone.

Fred: Don't worry. I'll go back. It's a bit chilly so I'll get my jacket, too.

Claire: Thanks sweetheart. You're a gem.

Fred: I try.

39.6.2 will go back (future prediction)

39.6.2.1 Petra and Helen are talking about their friend Parvathi, who is from India.

Helen: So, what are you going to do after you graduate?

Petra: I've decided to go back to my country and look for work there. I miss my family and friends.

Helen: Do you think Parvati will go back to India?

Petra: I don't think she will. I think she'll do her master's here first.

Helen: Yeah. She just loves studying!

39.6.3 will go back (future intention)

39.6.3.1 Lisa is chairing an important meeting.

Richard: I'd like to add something on this subject, if I may.

Lisa: I'm afraid we're running short of time so we need to move to the next point on the agenda. We'll go back to this point at the end, if we have time.

Richard: Of course. Sorry.

39.7.1 be going to go back (future prediction)

39.7.1.1 Chad and Sam are talking about their friend Gary and his girlfriend Gina.

Chad: Did Gary tell you that he split up with Gina again? She was cheating on him.

Sam: Yeah, but he's going to go back to her. He's just completely in love with her.

Chad: Really? Do you think so?

Sam: Yeah. They've broken up so many times already and they always get back together.

Chad: I guess you're right.

39.7.2 be going to go back (future intention)

39.7.2.1 Arjun and his friend, Donald, are going to graduate from college soon. They are talking about their future plans.

Donald: It's only three weeks until we graduate. Can you believe it?

Arjun: I know. Unbelievable how fast the time has gone.

Donald: What are you going to do after you graduate?

Arjun: I'm going to go back to India and get married.

Donald: What?! Married?

Arjun: Yeah. I have to find a nice girl first, but I want to get married at the end of next year, if possible.

Donald: Aren't you kind of young?

Arjun: I suppose.

Donald: You don't even have a girlfriend.

Arjun: I know. But it's pretty easy to meet nice girls through matchmaking agencies.

Donald: Well, good luck. I hope you find a fantastic girl.

Arjun: Thanks.

39.8 have gone back (present perfect)

39.8.1 Anna is talking to her friend, Natasha, about her brother. Natasha's brother is in the army and was working in Afghanistan.

Anna: How is your brother doing?

Natasha: He's doing well, thanks.

Anna: Is he still in Afghanistan?

Natasha: No. His unit has already gone back home.

Anna: That must be a relief for you and your family.

Natasha: Yes. It's good to have him home.

39.8.2 Wei, Karen and Josh all work for the same company. They are at a sales convention. The convention has just finished and they are preparing to return to their office.

Wei: Where's Josh? Has he gone back to the office already?

Karen: No. He hasn't gone back yet. He went to the restroom.

Wei: Oh good. I need him to take these boxes of brochures in his car.

Karen: Ok. He'll be back in a minute.

39.8.3 Tyler is talking to his new friend, Kevin. Kevin was born overseas and was adopted by a Canadian family when he was a baby.

Tyler: When did you come to the US?

Kevin: When I was a kid. I was born in Vietnam and I was adopted when I was only a few months old.

Tyler: Have you ever gone back to Vietnam?

Kevin: No. I've never gone back. Never wanted to. I know some people are interested in their roots and finding their biological parents, but I've never wanted to. Maybe I will someday.

Tyler: Well, I think it's cool that you were born in another country. I was born a few miles from here. That's just boring.

Kevin: Ha ha. If you say so.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: So, how long have you lived in California?

B: Oh... about ten years now.

A: How often do you _____ to England?

B: I try to _____ once a year. Usually at Christmas.

2.

A: Where are you going?

B: I'm _____ to the apartment. I forgot the car keys.

A: Oh ok. Could you grab my baseball cap for me?

B: Sure. I won't be long.

3.

A: I thought you were going to use that new design I showed you last week.

B: We were, but we _____ to the original design after we discussed the new design with the CEO.

A: How come?

B: The CEO thought it would be too expensive to implement.

A: All they care about is money. They wouldn't know good design if it bit them in the ass!

B: Well, the company has to make a profit, right?

4.

A: What's up?

B: Sorry. I'm not feeling myself. We were _____ to our apartment last night when a guy jumped out and stole our wallets and phones.

A: No way! That's awful.

B: We reported it to the police, but they haven't caught the guy yet.

5.

A: You're from a small town originally, right?

B: Yep. I grew up in a tiny place called Tring.

A: Tring?! What a weird name.

B: Yeah.

A: Have you ever _____ to Tring?

B: Sure. My mom still lives there.

40. Go back (2)

To have existed since or for a particular time

To have known someone for a long time

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
go/goes back	be going back	went back	have/has gone back

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

have existed; have known

This is mostly used in the present tense, but it can occasionally be used in the past tense.

40.1 go back (present tense)

40.1.1 Bruce and Dan are looking around an antique book shop. Bruce has been to the shop many times, but this is Dan's first time there.

Dan: Wow. I've never seen so many old books.

Bruce: I know. It's amazing isn't it? Some of these books go back two or three centuries.

Dan: I bet they're expensive.

Bruce: They are, but it's free to look!

Dan: Let's look then.

40.1.2 Charlotte is from Australia. She is in London on vacation. She is taking a bus tour of the city and is asking the tour guide some questions.

Charlotte: So these buildings look really old. How old are they?

Guide: Well, the majority of the buildings on this street go back to the 18th century, but there are some buildings in London which go back even further.

Charlotte: Like how old?

Guide: Actually the oldest man-made structure in London goes back more than 5,000 years.

Charlotte: No way!

Guide: Yes. It's a Bronze Age cemetery near the Royal Observatory.

Charlotte: Wow. I have to go.

40.1.3 Elsa is meeting with a representative from her company's bank, Credit International Bank. Elsa is thinking of using a different bank and is discussing this with the representative.

Elsa: Thank you for coming today Ms. Jackson.

Ms. Jackson: I'm glad I could be of assistance.

Elsa: Unfortunately, due to the difficult economic situation, this company is considering using the services of a different bank. We feel that we're not really benefiting from our relationship with Credit International Bank.

Ms. Jackson: We're very sorry that you feel like that. Our relationship with your company goes back many years so we're keen to keep you as one of our valued customers.

Elsa: Ok. Could you tell me whether your bank can match this deal we've been offered by one of your rivals?

Ms. Jackson: Let's take a look.

40.1.4 Robert is interviewing best-selling author, Jane Smith, about her new book on World War Two.

Robert: So, Jane. World War Two. This is somewhat of a new subject for you. You've written about other historical events, but never about war.

Jane: Yes, that's true, but my interest in World War Two goes back many years. My father fought in Europe against the Nazis and he came back with many moving stories of his time in the war.

Robert: Well, I'm sure the book will be a great success. Just like your other books.

Jane: Thank you, Robert. I hope the readers will like it.

40.1.5 Edward and Pat have been friends for a very long time. They are celebrating Edward's birthday together.

Patsy: Happy birthday, Eddy.

Edina: Thanks Pat. Pass me the champagne.

Patsy: Here you go. So how old are you now?

Edina: Twenty-nine. Same as last year, of course!

Patsy: You and I go back at least fifty years. Is it your seventieth birthday? Oh my God. It's your seventieth birthday!

Edina: No, it's not. And don't tell anyone.

Patsy: Happy seventieth birthday, Eddy. Have some more champagne. I think you need it.

Edina: Thanks Pat.

40.2 went back (past tense)

40.2.1 Liang is visiting her friend, Emma, in London. They are taking a walk around Emma's neighborhood.

Liang: That's a nice apartment building. It looks very new.

Emma: Yes, but many of the local people don't like it.

Liang: Why not? It looks so nice.

Emma: Well, they demolished a very old marketplace and built on top of it.

Liang: Oh, I see. How old was the marketplace?

Emma: I think it went back a few centuries. People like to preserve old places in the UK.

Liang: Well, I guess that's important, but people also need somewhere to live, right?

Emma: True, but these new apartments are too expensive for most people to afford.

Liang: Ah. I see why the locals are so upset now.

40.2.2 Tim is on a history tour in rural Japan. He is asking the tour guide some questions.

Tim: So, I read that the women on this island used to catch sea snakes for food. Is that right?

Guide: Yes. Actually, the practice went back hundreds of years.

Tim: What happened?

Guide: Well, the old ways are gone now and the women who knew how to hunt sea snakes have all died.

Tim: That's too bad.

Guide: Yes, I suppose so. But, necessity is the mother of invention, right? If we need to catch sea snakes again in the future, somebody will learn how to do it and teach others. Time moves on.

Tim: I suppose so.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: This is my first visit to the British Museum.

B: Really? It's such an interesting place. Some of the objects here _____ thousands of years.

A: Wow.

2.

A: Do you know John Freeman in the marketing department?

B: Sure. John and I _____ years. We actually went to school together.

A: No way. I had no idea.

3.

A: Many of these books _____ centuries. Please do not touch anything without wearing protective gloves.

B: Of course. I'll be very careful.

4.

A: This traditional dance is very beautiful.

B: Yes, it is. Balinese dance _____ to at least the 14th Century.

A: Really? Wow.

5.

A: I can't believe people used to cut themselves with knives to cure disease.

B: Yes. It was called "bloodletting" and the practice _____ at least 3,000 years.

A: When did people stop doing it?

B: It was eventually discredited in the 19th Century.

41. Think about (1)

To consider or analyze a subject with your mind

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
think/thinks about	be thinking about	thought about	have/has thought about

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

consider; contemplate; analyze

41.1 think about (present tense)

41.1.1 John is having a meeting with his team at work. He's a store manager.

John: Ok. Let's talk about our sales from last month. How did we do, Jean?

Jean: Not so great. Our sales were down 2%.

John: Ok people. We have to think about how to increase our sales. The more we sell, the more commission we get.

41.1.2 Amanda is a software engineer. Her colleague, Rob, has a problem with some code he is writing. He decides to ask Amanda for help.

Rob: Hi Amanda. Did you have a chance to look at that code I sent you? I can't find what's wrong with it.

Amanda: Yes. I've had a look at it. I need to think about this. I'm not sure there is an easy way to solve the problem.

Rob: Ok. Thanks for your help.

Amanda: No problem.

41.1.3 Sachiko is talking to her friend, Claire, about weekend plans.

Sachiko: How about going shopping on Sunday. I heard there's a sale on at the mall.

Claire: I don't know. I like to rest on Sundays and think about stuff.

Sachiko: Stuff? Like what?

Claire: You know, life, recent events.

Sachiko: Oh, right. Ok, how about Saturday?

Claire: Saturday is for shopping. Let's go!

41.1.4 Pete is in high school and is talking to his older brother, Michael, about going to university. Pete isn't sure whether he wants to go or not.

Pete: Mike. I don't know what I should do. Should I get a job or go to university?

Mike: Well, your grades are good enough to go. You should think about it carefully. Going to college is not for everyone, but it can help you to get a higher salary in the future.

Pete: True. But I'm not sure if I want a huge student loan. Why is education so expensive?

Mike: Good question!

41.1.5 Dan is talking to his friend Lucy about getting a new job.

Lucy: I'm not happy with my job.

Dan: Why? What's up?

Lucy: It's really boring. But, I'm worried I won't be able to find another job.

Dan: You need to think about why you want to quit your job. Will things improve? Is there anything you can do to improve the situation? If not, then maybe it's a good idea to look for a new job.

Lucy: Well, I don't think the situation will improve so maybe I should start looking for a job.

41.2 be thinking about (present continuous)

41.2.1 Helen is sitting in a cafe with her friend Christian.

Helen: What's up? What are you thinking about?

Christian: Not much. I'm thinking about what I'd like for dinner. Do you fancy getting some sushi?

Helen: Great idea. I know a good place.

Christian: Excellent. Let's go. I'm hungry.

Helen: But, it's only 5 o'clock!

41.2.2 Gina is planning the Christmas party for her office. She's talking to her coworker, Stewart, about it.

Gina: Hi Stewart. Do you have a few minutes?

Stewart: Sure. What's up?

Gina: I'm thinking about the plan for the staff Christmas dinner. Do you think we should go somewhere that serves traditional food, or go for something more unusual?

Stewart: That's a tricky question. I think you should email everyone and take a vote.

Gina: Good idea! I'll do that. Thanks Stewart.

Stewart: No problem.

41.2.3 Kevin and Sasha are snowboarding. It's Kevin's first time. Sasha is giving him some advice.

Kevin: Sasha. This is so much harder than I thought it would be.

Sasha: You're thinking about it too much. Just relax and try to enjoy it.

Kevin: I'm trying, but I keep falling down.

Sasha: Don't worry about falling down. That's half the fun!

Kevin: If you say so!

41.3 start/stop thinking about + noun

41.3.1 Mohammed is having dinner with his wife. She looks unhappy so he asks her what's wrong.

Mohammed: Are you ok? You look sad.

Farida: I can't stop thinking about that awful story I read in the newspaper this morning.

Mohammed: Which one?

Farida: The one about the little girl who was kidnapped. It makes me worry about the safety of our daughter.

Mohammed: Don't worry. Our daughter is so naughty nobody would ever kidnap her.

Farida: Yes. You have a point.

Mohammed: Ah. A smile. Good.

41.3.2 Tom is talking to his friend, Jeremy about his ex-girlfriend.

Jeremy: Why the frown?

Tom: I can't stop thinking about Jasmine. I really miss her.

Jeremy: She dumped you.

Tom: I know. But, I still love her.

Jeremy: Best to forget her. She was really bad for you.

Tom: Bad is good.

Jeremy: Oh God. No hope for you!

41.3.3 Rita works for a big construction company. Soon Rita and her team will be participating in a national sales convention. Rita and her team are having a meeting about preparations for the convention.

Sarah: Ok. First on the agenda is preparation for the convention.

Rita: Yes. Although the sales convention is still four weeks away, Peter wants us to start thinking about how we're going to attract new customers at the convention.

Farrah: Ok. I have some great ideas.

Rita: Sounds good Farrah. Please share.

41.4 thought about (past tense)

41.4.1 Adam is talking to his partner, Taro.

Taro: What's up sweetheart? You look troubled.

Adam: No. I'm ok. I'm just thinking.

Taro: About?

Adam: I thought about what you said about me being too impatient. I think you're right. I'm going to stick with my new job for a few more months and see if it gets better.

Taro: I think that's wise. It takes time to get a new job anyway.

41.4.2 Luis is having breakfast with his girlfriend, Anna. Yesterday, Luis saw a friend at work stealing some merchandise. Luis is not sure whether he should talk to this friend about it, or not.

Anna: You look exhausted Luis. Are you ok?

Luis: I am. I thought about it all night. I still don't know what I should do.

Anna: I wouldn't say anything, if I were you.

Luis: But, he shouldn't steal stuff.

Anna: Yes, but it's not your responsibility to catch him. If you talk to him about it, it could cause problems for you at work.

Luis: I guess you're right.

Anna: Trust me. Let management catch him. You don't have to do anything.

Luis: Ok.

41.4.3 Lea is speaking with her fiancé, Aron, about going traveling.

Aron: I really don't want to go to work with morning. I'm so sick of my job.

Lea: Well, I thought about this when I was driving home last night. Neither of us likes our jobs and we have plenty of money saved. Why don't we take a year off and travel the world while we're still young and don't have kids?

Aron: Seriously? That would be amazing!

Lea: Let's talk about it after work and make some plans.

Aron: You bet. I love you!

Lea: Yeah. I am pretty awesome, right? Ha ha.

Aron: Yes, you are.

41.5 be thinking about (past continuous)

41.5.1 Manuel and Aya are having coffee. Aya is talking about some problems she is having at work.

Aya: So, I really can't stand my boss. She's so annoying.

Manuel: Uh-huh.

Aya: Are you listening to me?

Manuel: Hmmm? Sorry. I was thinking about something else.

Aya: Sorry. I can't stop complaining about work.

Manuel: Let's change the subject. Maybe it will cheer you up?

Aya: Good idea. Let's talk about the weekend!

Manuel: Sure.

41.5.2 Trevor and Kim are talking about Trevor's plans for a new business. Trevor needs to find investors.

Kim: Trevor. I was thinking about your situation yesterday. How much do you need again?

Trevor: We need about fifty thousand dollars to get started.

Kim: I've decided I'd like to invest. I think you have a really great idea and I want to be a part of it.

Trevor: Wow! That's awesome. Thanks Kim.

Kim: Well, I need to see a good business plan before I invest anything.

Trevor: Of course. I'll get to work.

41.6 will think about (future intention)

41.6.1 Jing and her mother are going on vacation tomorrow. Jing hasn't packed her clothes yet and her mother is worried that she won't have time to pack.

Mother: Jing. Where's your suitcase. I'm going to put them in the car so we don't have to hurry tomorrow morning.

Jing: Suitcase? Oh, I haven't packed yet.

Mother: What? You'd better hurry up.

Jing: Don't worry. After dinner I'll think about what I want to wear and then I'll pack. It won't take long.

Mother: I hope not. You always leave things to the last minute.

Jing: Don't nag, mom.

Mother: Just saying....

41.6.2 Kevin has moved into a new apartment, but it needs decorating and Kevin is not very artistic so he decides to ask a friend of his to help.

Kevin: The whole apartment needs painting and decorating. I don't know where to start. Would you help?

Keith: No problem. Interior design is my forte. I'll think about the space and write down some ideas for you.

Kevin: Thanks, Keith. That would help me a lot.

Keith: Just remember. I'm great at design and terrible at painting, so all the hard work is yours!

Kevin: Of course. I know!

41.7 be going to think about (future plan)

41.7.1 Anthea is talking to her friend, Anita, about her career. Anthea has been offered two jobs at different companies and she is trying to decide which job to take.

Anthea: Guess what?

Anita: What happened?

Anthea: I've been offered two jobs!

Anita: Wow. That's fantastic news. Well done. Which one are you going to take?

Anthea: I've decided to take the one in Chicago, but it means I have to move closer to the city, so rent will be higher.

Anita: Well, I'm glad you're going to move closer to me! When are you going to move?

Anthea: I'm not sure about the timing yet. I'm going to think about it tonight over a bottle of wine. Wanna come over and help me?

Anita: That's a great idea. See you around 7?

Anthea: Perfect.

41.8 have thought about (present perfect)

41.8.1 Freda and Matthew are going on vacation to Paris next week. They are still trying to decide what they want to see and do there.

Freda: I've finally finished my list of places I want to visit in Paris.

Matthew: Oh. Ok.

Freda: Have you thought about what you want to do in Paris yet?

Matthew: No. I'll think about it today. Work was so busy this week, I didn't have any free time.

Freda: Well, here's my list to give you some ideas.

Matthew: Ok. Thanks.

41.8.2 Tom is talking to his daughter about plans for her birthday. She is going to be eight years old.

Tom: So, Kerry, have you thought about what you want to do and where you want to go for your birthday?

Kerry: I've already thought about who I want to invite.

Tom: Ok. What do you want to do?

Kerry: I'm not sure. I haven't thought about that yet.

Tom: Ok, but your birthday is next week so think about it soon. If you want to do something special, we might need to book somewhere.

Kerry: Book?

Tom: Make a reservation.

Kerry: Ok. I'll talk about it today with my friends.

41.8.3 Janet is having an argument with her husband, Liam. Janet thinks Liam spends too much time at work and not enough time with her and their children.

Janet: Why are you home so late again? You missed dinner with the kids. I tried calling you.

Liam: I'm sorry. My client meeting overran.

Janet: Liam. This has to stop. You have to make them understand that you're a father and you have responsibilities.

Liam: Stop overreacting. It doesn't happen that often. You need to calm down.

Janet: Have you ever really thought about what me and the kids need? I don't think so. I've had enough of this conversation. I'm going to bed.

Liam: Oh Janet. Don't be like that.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: We don't have enough money to save anything this month, honey.

B: Really? We need to _____ how to economize. Maybe we should move to a cheaper neighborhood.

A: We could, but then we'd have to spend much longer commuting to work.

2.

A: Why are you frowning like that? What's up?

B: I'm _____ my presentation.

A: Presentation?

B: I have to make a presentation to the board next week. The presentation has to be perfect. That's why I'm frowning.

A: I see.

3.

A: You're 16 now, Jimmy. You need to start _____ what you want to do after high school.

B: But, I've only just turned 16. Isn't it a bit early.

A: Well, do you want to go to college or get a job?

B: I'm not sure.

A: If you want to go to college, you're going to have to study hard and stop hanging out with your friends so much.

B: Oh.

4.

A: Oh my gosh. The wedding is next weekend.

B: Have you _____ what you're going to say?

A: What? My speech. No, not yet.

B: You'd better hurry up. I'm sure the bride and groom will want to read it before the wedding!

5.

A: Aya, have you _____ the agenda for tomorrow's meeting with the CEO?

B: No, sorry. I haven't had time yet. I'll _____ it now and send you a draft this afternoon, ok?

A: Sure. Thanks.

B: No problem.

42. Think about 2)

To consider doing something

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
think/thinks about	be thinking about	thought about	have/has thought about

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

consider doing; contemplate doing

42.1 think about +ing (present tense)

42.1.1 Jack is talking to Sofia about traveling. He has never been to Europe.

Sofia: What are your vacation plans for this year Jack?

Jack: Every year I think about going to Europe, but I never go. I always end up going on vacation to Mexico. Maybe I'll finally go to Europe.

Sofia: You really should. There is so much to see and do. I loved it.

Jack: I'll think about it. I just love the food and weather in Mexico.

Sofia: Yes. It is a beautiful place.

42.1.2 Florence and Mia are talking about their secrets.

Florence: Ok. I'll tell you a secret first. I sometimes think about quitting my job and backpacking around the world all by myself.

Mia: Without your husband?

Florence: Yeah. I miss the adventures you can have when you're single.

Mia: I secretly think about having an affair with my personal trainer at the gym.

Florence: No way! But, he's so....

Mia: Young?

Florence: Ha ha. Yes, young.

Mia: Well, it's just a fantasy.

42.1.3 Nathan is talking to James about starting his own business. He doesn't know where he should borrow money to start the business.

Nathan: So I went to the bank and discussed business loans today.

James: Uh-huh. What did they say?

Nathan: They basically told me to go away.

James: Did you show them a business plan.

Nathan: Sure. But they think my business idea isn't mainstream enough for them.

James: You should think about crowdfunding your idea.

Nathan: Hey. That's actually not a bad idea.

James: Just Google how to do it. I'm sure it can't be that difficult.

Nathan: I will!

42.2 thinking about +ing (present continuous)

42.2.1 Jing is running in the park. She bumps into her friend Nathan and they stop to chat.

Nathan: Hey Jing. How's it going?

Jing: Good thanks. You?

Nathan: Just out for a quick stroll. Do you run here every weekend?

Jing: Yeah. Most weekends. Actually I'm training.

Nathan: For what?

Jing: Well, I'm thinking about running my first marathon this year.

Nathan: Wow. That's cool.

Jing: Yeah. But, it's a lot of work.

Nathan: Well, I should let you get back to your training. See you at work on Monday.

Jing: Sure. Have a great weekend! Bye.

42.2.2 Felix and Jack work in the same office. Jack has back pain and Felix is asking about it.

Felix: Are you ok Jack?

Jack: My back is really hurting today.

Felix: What's wrong with your back?

Jack: The doctor says I sit too much and don't exercise enough.

Felix: What kind of exercise does he want you to do?

Jack: He didn't say, but I'm thinking about trying Pilates?

Felix: Is that like yoga?

Jack: Kind of. It's good for bad backs.

Felix: You should give it a try.

Jack: I think I will. Back pain really sucks.

42.2.3 Steve and George are talking about their weekend plans.

Steve: Any plans for the weekend George?

George: I'm thinking about going fishing.

Steve: Nice.

George: Do you fish?

Steve: No. Not really my thing. I'm thinking about seeing that new action movie on Saturday. Looks really awesome.

George: Well, have fun. I'm not in the mood for action.

42.3 thought about +ing (past tense)

42.3.1 Olivia and Anthea are talking about their ex-boyfriends.

Anthea: My ex keeps texting me.

Olivia: Why don't you just block him.

Anthea: I don't know. I kind of like that he still wants me.

Olivia: I thought about going back to my ex after he cheated on me, but I'm glad I decided not to. Now I'm with a much nicer guy.

Anthea: I guess you're right. I need to find me a nice guy!

42.3.2 Lucas is talking to his nephew, Jonas, who is thinking about going overseas to volunteer during his university's summer vacation.

Jonas: So I'm thinking of going to Nepal or the Philippines to volunteer during my vacation.

Lucas: That sounds really interesting. I thought about volunteering when I was a college student, but I never did. I kind of regret that.

Jonas: If I go, I'll be helping to build shelters and houses for people who've lost their homes.

Lucas: It sounds like very good experience. I think you should go.

Jonas: I'll definitely volunteer, but I'm not sure whether I should go to Nepal or the Philippines.

Lucas: Go where they need you most.

Jonas: Good advice. I'll think about it.

42.4 be thinking about +ing (past continuous)

42.4.1 Fatima calls her friend Jayden to ask if she has plans for the weekend.

Jayden: Hi Fatima. How're you?

Fatima: Good, good. Say, what're you up to today?

Jayden: Well, I was thinking about cleaning my apartment, but I'm really tired so I think I'm just going to veg out today.

Fatima: Fancy meeting up for coffee?

Jayden: Sure. Sounds good. Before or after lunch?

Fatima: After. I've got a class at the gym this morning.

Jayden: Ok. Give me a call after lunch.

Fatima: Ok. See you later.

Jayden: Bye.

42.4.2 Alysha and Andrew work in the same office together. They are talking about an important client.

Alysha: So what happened with the Clinton contract renewal?

Andrew: I heard that Clinton's lawyers were thinking about breaking the contract, but they changed their mind after we negotiated.

Alysha: That's good news for us.

Andrew: Sure. It's a really big contract. Will be good for our bonus at year end.

42.5 have thought about +ing (present perfect)

42.5.1 Ben is talking to Lucas about losing weight. Ben has been told by his doctor that he needs to lose weight.

Ben: I feel terrible.

Lucas: Why?

Ben: My doctor told me I need to lose weight.

Lucas: Ok. A lot?

Ben: Yeah. Maybe 50 pounds.

Lucas: Have you thought about going swimming? It's a good way to burn calories and you like swimming, right?

Ben: I like swimming, but I haven't gone swimming for a long time. I'm kind of embarrassed.

Lucas: Why don't we go together?

Ben: Ok. Let's do that.

42.5.2 Mason is at Isabella's place. Isabella has cooked dinner and made a delicious dessert.

Isabella: How's the dessert?

Mason: Wow! It's amazing!

Isabella: Really? I'm glad you like it.

Mason: Have you ever thought about starting your own patisserie?

Isabella: I have, actually. But, it would be so much work. I'm not sure I would enjoy it.

Mason: Well, if you ever do, I would definitely buy cakes there every day!

Isabella: Ha ha. Ok. Maybe I will.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: Where are you going this summer?

B: I'm not sure yet. I sometimes _____ going somewhere overseas, but I usually stay in the US.

A: Really? Traveling overseas is so much more interesting.

B: Yes. And expensive!

2.

A: I'm _____ going to Las Vegas during Spring Break. Do you wanna come?

B: That sounds awesome! I'd love to.

A: Ok. Let's see if we can book a hotel. It's usually really hard to get a room.

3.

A: Hey, I like your new hair color.

B: Thanks. I was _____ dyeing it auburn, but I changed my mind and went for dark brown.

A: It really suits you!

4.

A: Oh. I have terrible indigestion.

B: Sorry to hear that. Have you _____ cutting gluten out of your diet?

A: No? Why?

B: A lot of people are actually gluten intolerant and just don't know it.

A: Really? Maybe I should give it a try.

5.

A: Have you ever _____ becoming a teacher?

B: No, why? You're really good at explaining things.

A: Really? Am I? I don't think so.

B: No, really. I think you'd make a great teacher.

43. Think about (3)

To form an opinion on a subject

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
think/thinks about	be thinking about	thought about	have/has thought about

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

evaluate; reflect on; mull over

43.1 think about (present tense)

43.1.1 Ian and Mary are friends and Ian is advising Mary about borrowing money.

Mary: Ian, you've had a personal loan before, right?

Ian: Sure have. What's up?

Mary: I'm thinking about getting a personal loan from my bank, but I'm not sure if they are offering a good deal or not.

Ian: Well, before I sign any contract, I always read the small print and think about the pros and cons first. I suggest you do the same.

Mary: I will. Do you mind if I show you the contract and get your opinion on it?

Ian: No problem.

Mary: Great. Thank you.

43.1.2 Esther is Anya's manager. Esther wants to promote Anya to a different role with more responsibility.

Esther: So Anya, what do you think about the role?

Anya: It looks very interesting and I'm very happy that you want me to do it, but I'm a little concerned that I don't have the necessary experience to do the job well.

Esther: I think you do. Anyway, think about it over the weekend and give me your decision next week. No pressure.

Anya: Thank you Esther. I appreciate it.

43.1.3 Carol is a realtor and has just shown a client around several houses.

Carol: How did you like the houses we saw today?

Client: I liked them, but I need to think about them carefully before I make any decisions.

Carol: Yes, of course. Please do. Give me a call if you'd like to move forward with any of them.

Client: Thanks. I will.

43.2 be thinking about (present continuous)

43.2.1 Joan is talking to her friend Diana about her elderly parents. Her parents are too old to do housework and Joan thinks they need some help.

Diana: So how are your folks doing?

Joan: Not so good. They are just too old to look after that big house they live in. And I live too far away to go and help them with the housework.

Diana: Are you going to get a cleaner to help?

Joan: Maybe. There are several options. We're still thinking about the best way to help them.

Diana: I'm sure they'll be fine.

Joan: I know. It just worries me.

43.2.2 Gina wants to start a business and she has given a business plan to her bank manager hoping to get a business loan.

Gina: Hello. Mr. Kim. How are you?

Mr. Kim: Hello Mrs. Right. I'm fine, thanks. How can I help you?

Gina: I was just wondering if you'd had time to review my business plan.

Mr. Kim: Well, actually, it's not me who reviews these things. Our head office is still thinking about your proposal and will contact you with their response soon.

Gina: I see. Do you know when?

Mr. Kim: It should be within 10 days of receipt of the business plan. So that would be next Wednesday.

Gina: Thank you.

Mr. Kim: I'm sorry I can't be of more help.

Gina: No problem. Thanks anyway.

Mr. Kim: Have a good day.

Gina: Thanks. You, too.

43.3 thought about (past tense)

43.3.1 Kevin is talking to his daughter about buying a car.

Kevin: So have you decided whether you want to buy a new or a used car?

Pam: Yes. I sat down yesterday and thought about the pros and cons of buying a used car and decided that I'd just be happier buying a new car, even if it means only being able to afford a small car.

Kevin: Why don't you want a used car?

Pam: I'd just prefer to have a car with a warranty, in case it breaks down.

Kevin: Well, it's true that used cars do tend to break down more often. Ok. Let's do some research online.

Pam: Great. I want a red car.

Kevin: Red... Ok, well that narrows the search down...

Pam: Are you being sarcastic?

Kevin: Me? Never.

43.4 be thinking about (past continuous)

43.4.1 Jasmine is having breakfast with her husband, John. John seems to be thinking about something so Jasmine asks him what is on his mind.

Jasmine: Is everything ok, sweetheart? You seem very far away.

John: Sorry. I was just thinking.

Jasmine: About what? Something nice?

John: No, unfortunately not. I was thinking about whether I should go to grad school, or not.

Jasmine: Oh. That sounds expensive.

John: I know, but I think I need to go back to school. It's the only way I can get a better job long-term.

Jasmine: Well, we have some savings. How long would it take?

John: I'd have to study part-time and keep working. There's no way we could afford it otherwise.

Jasmine: Well, you have my support.

John: Thanks.

43.5 Will think about (future intention)

43.5.1 Helen and Sandra are students. Helen is inviting Sandra to go on a trip to Europe.

Helen: What are your plans for the summer vacation?

Sandra: Nothing yet. Why? Are you planning something?

Helen: Yes, as a matter of fact! I'm planning a tour of Germany with a few friends from my class. Do you want to come?

Sandra: I'm not sure. I need to save some money. I'll think about it.

Helen: Sure. It would be great if you could join us!

43.5.2 A window salesman has come to Don's house and is speaking with Don about installing new windows.

Salesman: So, I think you'd really benefit from installing some new windows. It would save you a lot of money in the long-run.

Don: I'm sure it would, but they're very expensive.

Salesman: Well, if you decide to buy before the end of the month, you'll get a 10% discount.

Don: Ok. Thanks. We'll think about it and give you a call if we're interested.

Salesman: Great. Thanks. Here's my card.

Don: Thanks. Bye.

Salesman: Have a great day!

Don: Thanks. You, too.

43.6 be going to think about (future intention/plan)

43.6.1 John has just received his exam results. Unfortunately his results weren't good enough for him to get into the college he wanted. He's talking to a friend about his situation.

John: I'm so disappointed.

Friend: Why don't you wait for a year and retake your exams? Or maybe you could get into a different college to study something different.

John: I'm not sure what to do yet. There are a lot of options. I'm going to think about it for a few days and make a decision.

Friend: Sounds like a good idea. It's not an easy decision to make.

43.7 have thought about (present perfect)

43.7.1 Sandra has been offered a promotion by her boss, Derrick, but the promotion would require her to relocate to Mumbai in India.

Sandra: Hi Derrick. Do you have a few minutes?

Derrick: Sure, Sandra. What's up?

Sandra: It's about the promotion. I'm really grateful that you've offered it to me, but I've thought about it and I don't think I can live in India.

Derrick: I see. Well, the role would be really interesting and good for your career. Let me know if you change your mind. I'll get HR to start advertising the post externally.

Sandra: Sorry. Thank you again for thinking of me.

Derrick: No problem.

43.7.2 Tommy is talking to his friend Dave about an idea he has had to make money.

Tommy: So Dave. Have you thought about my idea?

Dave: What idea?

Tommy: You know. The money making idea I told you about yesterday.

Dave: No, I haven't thought about it. It's a dumb idea. Seriously.

Tommy: No, it's not. Come on! Why is it dumb?

Dave: Selling DVDs door to door isn't going to make any money. People watch everything on Netflix or Amazon these days.

Tommy: Well, I think you're wrong. I'm gonna try it myself and make loads of money.

Dave: Good luck!

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: Have you _____ my idea? Isn't it great?

B: Well... I have _____ it, but I don't really think it will work.

2.

A: So, Mrs. Newton. Have you thought about the offer Mr. Richards made on your house?

B: Well, actually, we're still _____ it. We need more time. It's a good offer, but we feel that we may be able to get a little more.

A: Ok. Could you let me know your decision tomorrow?

B: Yes, we'll do that.

3.

A: What's up? Are you listening to me? You were staring at the ceiling.

B: Sorry. I was _____ whether I should quit my job or not.

A: What? Oh no. What's wrong?

B: I really hate my boss.

4.

A: I really don't know how to make a decision.

B: Well, I always _____ the pros and cons very carefully and then just go with my gut feeling.

A: Maybe I should do the same.

5.

A: Mr. Smith. Have you _____ my new project idea?

B: Yes, I have. It's extremely interesting. Let's set up a meeting to discuss things further.

A: Great. Thank you.

44. Think about (4)

To have an opinion on something

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
think/thinks about	not used with this meaning	thought about	have/has thought about

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

think of; believe; reckon

Often used to ask someone's opinion about something, e.g. "What do you think about Harry Potter?"

44.1 think about (present tense)

44.1.1 Zoe is a teacher. She is asking her class their opinions about refugees in Europe coming from Syria and other countries.

Zoe: Today we're going to talk about the refugee crisis in Europe. What do you think about the situation?

Student A: Nobody cares what we think about the refugees. Governments don't listen to the public.

Student B: I'll tell you what I think about the refugees. I think they should go home and fight in their countries.

Zoe: Many of them are women and young children.

Student C: It doesn't matter what we think about the refugees. It only matters that somebody helps them to escape the war.

44.1.2 Stephen is 18 years old and lives at home with his mother. He has been offered a job in California and is planning to move away from home. Stephen is talking to his friend, Josh, about it.

Josh: I'm really happy for you, Steve. I'm gonna miss you, but I'll come visit.

Stephen: Thanks. I'll miss you and the guys.

Josh: What does your mom think about you moving out?

Stephen: I don't know what she thinks about it.

Josh: What?

Stephen: I haven't told her yet.

Josh: Wow. Well, you might want to do that sooner rather than later.

Stephen: I know. I know. But, she's gonna cry and I hate that.

Josh: Well, better to tell her now so she has time to get used to it.

Stephen: Yeah. I guess you're right.

44.1.3 Olivia and Jean work together at the same company. There have just been some big changes in staff at the company and many people have lost their jobs. They are talking about the situation.

Olivia: I still don't understand why we kept our jobs while so many others were fired.

Jean: Yeah. I'm not sure what I think about the situation. I'm glad I wasn't fired, but things are gonna be much tougher because we're gonna have to do a lot of extra work.

Olivia: I know. It sucks.

44.2 thought about (past tense)

44.2.1 Eric is at his father's funeral. He is talking to his cousin, Greg, about his father.

Greg: We're all gonna miss the old guy, Eric.

Eric: Yeah. Me, too. Well, he had a good long life. Not many people live to 90 years old.

Greg: True. True. So how's life? Are you still painting?

Eric: Yes. Still painting. Not making much money, but enjoying life.

Greg: You're lucky. I wanted to be a singer, but my dad was really against it. He told me to get a proper job. What did your dad think about you becoming an artist?

Eric: I'm not really sure what he thought about it. He was a very quiet man and he never really interfered with that kind of stuff.

Greg: You're lucky. I still kind of wish I'd tried harder to become a singer.

Eric: Well, I guess I'm lucky that I can do what I love, but unfortunately it doesn't pay the bills very well.

Greg: That's life.

Eric: Yes. That's life.

44.3 have thought about (present perfect)

44.3.1 Will and Jess are trying to decide what courses to take at college. They are looking at the college's website together.

Will: I have no idea what some of these courses are about.

Jess: I know what you mean. What on earth is "History of Sociology"?

Will: That one I think I understand. It's what people have thought about society through the ages.

Jess: Wow, Will. You're not just a pretty face.

Will: Impressed?

Jess: A little.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: What do you _____ that new sci-fi show on TV? Is it worth watching?

B: Which one? Do you mean, "In The Walls"? It's pretty good.

2.

A: Has Jean given you the ok on this new idea?

B: I'm not sure what she _____ it. I haven't had a chance to ask her yet.

3.

A: That new house across the street is so ugly. Why didn't anybody ask us what we _____ the design before it was built?

B: Well, the owners applied for permission to the council and they gave it the thumbs up.

A: They should consult the neighborhood on things like that.

B: I agree.

4.

A: What is this exhibition about?

B: It's a series of photographs which show what people have _____ interracial marriage over the past one hundred years.

5.

A: What does your family _____ you moving to the UK?

B: I don't think they mind. My mom is a little sad, but my dad is excited for me.

45. Think about (5)

To recollect or remember someone or something, often because you have feelings connected with it

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
think/thinks about	thinking about	thought about	have/has thought about

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

recollect; remember

45.1 think about (present tense)

45.1.1 Travis and Emma are in a long-distance relationship. They have been together for a long time. Travis is studying in New York and Emma lives in their hometown in California.

Emma: Travis. I've been calling you all day, but you didn't answer your phone.

Travis: Sorry. I had class.

Emma: Really? I feel like you're ignoring me.

Travis: I'm not. I'm just busy.

Emma: Do you even think about me at all during the day?

Travis: Of course. I think about you all the time.

Emma: I wish I could believe you. This long-distance thing really sucks.

45.1.2 Hikaru and Joseph are both international students at a college in London. They are talking about living overseas.

Hikaru: Do you go back home every summer? You're from Canada, right?

Joseph: Yes, that's right. I go back every summer. I really miss my family. I think about them a lot.

Hikaru: Me, too. I love living here in London, but I do miss hanging out with my brother and my friends back home.

45.1.3 Robert and his sister Jane are talking about their mother. Their father recently died and their mother is quite depressed.

Robert: How is mom doing?

Jane: Not so good. When are you coming to visit next?

Robert: I'm away on business for a couple of weeks, so after that.

Jane: She just sits in the garden and thinks about him. She's so sad.

Robert: Well, maybe we can take her on a trip when I get back.

Jane: That's a good idea. That'll take her mind off things for a while.

45.2 be thinking about (present continuous)

45.2.1 Jenn calls her husband Donny who is in the navy and is currently overseas.

Jenn: Hi sweetie.

Donny: Hi darling. How are you?

Jenn: We're good. What are you doing?

Donny: I'm not on duty so I'm lying on my bunk thinking about you and Carla.

Jenn: Carla says "hi".

Donny: Is she enjoying kindergarten?

Jenn: So far, yes. I think she has a boyfriend already.

Donny: Oh no. That's all I need!

Jenn: Ha ha. Well, just wait until she's in high school. The boys will be hanging off her.

Donny: I hope she doesn't grow up too fast.

45.3 thought about (past tense)

45.3.1 Marcus has just returned home to his partner and children after working in Hong Kong for one month.

Daughter: Daddy! I missed you.

Marcus: I missed you, too, sweetie.

Daughter: Did you miss me?

Marcus: I thought about you and your mummy every day while I was away. I missed you very much.

Daughter: Do you have to go away again, daddy?

Marcus: No. Not for a while. I'm home now.

45.4 be thinking about (past continuous)

45.4.1 Natasha and Karen are talking over coffee. Karen seems distracted so Natasha asks her what's the matter.

Natasha: Are you ok Karen? You seem a bit far away.

Karen: Sorry, Tash. I was thinking about Keith again. I know I shouldn't, but I just can't help it.

Natasha: That guy is such a loser. I can't believe he cheated on you with that bimbo.

Karen: I know I did the right thing splitting up with him, but I do miss him sometimes.

Natasha: God. I want to punch that guy.

45.5 have thought about (present perfect)

45.5.1 Ethan and Tara used to be a couple but they broke up because Ethan had to move away with his job. Ethan is at a bar and suddenly Tara walks in.

Ethan: Tara?!

Tara: Oh my God! Ethan! I can't believe it. What are you doing here?

Ethan: I'm just out with some friends.

Tara: Me, too. I moved to D.C. last month.

Ethan: Seriously? That's great.

Tara: Are you seeing anyone?

Ethan: No, not at the moment. To be honest, I've thought about you every day since I left Chicago.

Tara: Shall I tell you a secret?

Ethan: Ok.

Tara: So have I. Let's have dinner tomorrow night.

Ethan: Sure. I'll pick you up at eight.

Exercises

Complete the following conversations:

1.

A: I really miss your dad.

B: Me, too. I _____ him all the time. I can't believe it's already been a year since the funeral.

2.

A: Did you miss us?

B: Of course. I _____ you and the little ones every day. I'm so glad to be home for a few weeks before my next business trip.

3.

A: John! What are you doing here? It's so good to see you.

B: Mariko! It's great to see you, too.

A: Are you here with anyone?

B: Well, I was supposed to meet someone, but she cancelled.

A: No way. That's terrible. Can I join you? I've just moved to town and I'm eating out all by myself.

B: Sure. You've just moved here? That's great.

A: Can I tell you a little secret?

B: Of course.

A: I've really missed you since you left L.A. I _____ you a lot actually.

B: How do you feel about going on a date tomorrow night?

A: Sounds great!

4.

A: Emily? Hello? Earth calling Emily!

B: Oh, sorry mum. I was _____ Rahul.

A: For goodness sake, Emily. You have to forget that boy. He's no good for you.

5.

A: Ok. Why have you got that smile on your face? What's going on?

B: Nothing. I was just _____ something John said to me last night.

A: It must have been something good.

B: Oh, it was.

A: Well...

B: I'll tell you soon.

A: I'm intrigued.

46. Go out (1)

To leave a place inside to go outside for a particular reason

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
go/goes out	be going out	went out	have/has gone out

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

exit; leave

46.1 go out (present tense)

46.1.1. Greg and Rob are talking about exercising and keeping healthy.

Greg: What do you do to keep fit, Rob?

Rob: Not that much, really. I go out with the dog once a day, but he has very short legs, so it's not much exercise for me!

Greg: Ha ha. Maybe you should get a bigger dog.

Rob: Two dogs? One is enough!

46.1.2 Martha and James are at home. It's Sunday and Martha is bored of watching TV.

Martha: Hey. I'm bored. Let's go out.

James: Go out where? The mall?

Martha: I fancy watching a movie. Let's grab some lunch and catch a movie.

James: Who's paying?

Martha: Ok ok. My treat. Get your jacket. Let's go.

46.1.3 Yasmine is talking to her grandfather. Yasmine is pregnant and is still working full-time. Her grandfather thinks that this is strange.

Grandfather: So how are you doing, sweetheart?

Yasmine: I'm doing good, grandpa.

Grandfather: I can't believe you're still working in your condition.

Yasmine: In my condition? You make me smile grandpa. Lots of women go out to work when they're pregnant. I don't want to stay home all day. I'd get so bored.

Grandfather: In my day pregnant women didn't go out to work. It's not right. You should be resting.

Yasmine: Ok grandpa. I'll make sure I don't work too hard. Thanks for your concern.

46.2 be going out (present continuous)

46.2.1 Helen's mother is worried that her daughter isn't studying hard enough. Her exams are coming soon and she is anxious that Helen won't do well.

Mother: Hey. Where are you going?

Helen: I'm going out. Why?

Mother: Where? Shouldn't you be studying? Your exams start next week.

Helen: I've already studied for two hours today. I need a break. I'm going out to meet Claire for a couple of hours. I'll be back before dinner.

Mother: Ok. Just make sure you do.

46.2.2 Wendy is about to go out when her father stops her.

Father: What the....

Wendy: What?

Father: You are not going out wearing that!

Wendy: Don't be so old fashioned dad! This is normal for a girl my age.

Father: You're only 14! You can't dress like that.

Wendy: I'm just going out to the mall with some friends.

Father: Ok. In that case, you definitely don't need to wear that. Please go and change.

Wendy: But, dad!

Father: No buts. Now.

46.3 went out (past tense)

46.3.1 Ethan and Fred work together at ABC Corp. Ethan is looking for their colleague, Pam.

Ethan: Hey Fred. Have you seen Pam today?

Fred: Sure. She's definitely in today. I think she went out for a smoke.

Ethan: Regular place?

Fred: Probably.

Ethan: Ok. I'll go find her. I need to ask her something about one of my projects.

46.3.2 Teresa and her friend, Tim are having coffee together and chatting about recent events.

Teresa: What's up, Tim? Have you got a cold?

Tim: I think so. I went out in the rain yesterday without an umbrella. I think I caught a chill.

Teresa: Why did you do that?

Tim: I had no choice. I needed to go to the store to get groceries and I left my umbrella in the office.

Teresa: Well I hope you feel better soon.

Tim: Thanks.

46.4 be going out (past continuous)

46.4.1 Wes is talking to his roommate about something that scared him.

Wes: I nearly died last night.

Roommate: What are you talking about?

Wes: I was going out to the store when I heard this really freaky noise behind me. It made all the hairs stand up on the back of my neck!

Roommate: What was it?

Wes: It turned out to be a raccoon in a trash can.

Roommate: Ha ha. I wish I could have seen your face!

Wes: Thanks, man. I nearly had a heart attack.

Roommate: That's too damn funny.

46.5 have/has gone out (present perfect)

46.5.1 Helen is at home with her kids. She is sitting in the lounge with her daughter watching TV.

She thinks her son is upstairs. She calls him to ask him a question, but there is no reply.

Helen: Brian! Are you having dinner with us?

Daughter: I think he's* gone out somewhere.

Helen: Really? He was in his room.

Daughter: I saw him go out the back door.

Helen: Ok. I'll text him then.

* short for "has"

46.5.2 Mike is at home, but his wife is not. Suddenly there is a knock at the door. A neighbor, Sarah, has come by.

Mike: Hang on. I'll be there in a minute.

Sarah: Hi, Mike. Is Jean home?

Mike: Hi Sarah. No, I'm sorry. She's gone out to get some groceries. She should be back in an hour or so.

Sarah: No, worries. I just came over to ask her about the charity fundraiser. I'll give her a call later.

Mike: Ok. Thanks for dropping by.

Sarah: See you.

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations:

1.

A: Have you seen Laurie this morning?

B: Yeah. She was here a minute ago. Maybe she _____ for coffee?

A: Ok. I'll come back.

2.

A: Hey! Where do you think you're going? What about your homework?

B: I'm _____ to the store. I want to get some candy. I've finished my homework already.

A: Ok. Come straight back, ok?

B: Ok, mom.

3.

A: Ok. I'm _____ for a while. When I come back I want your room to be spotless!

B: Mom. My room isn't that messy. Why do I have to clean it?

A: Because I say so.

B: Ok. What time will you be back?

A: Around 4, I think.

4.

A: Where's Dean?

B: He's _____ with the dog.

A: Oh. When did he go?

B: About ten minutes ago.

5.

A: Never guess what happened last night!

B: What?

A: Well, I was _____ to the store to get some milk and I bumped into Emma on the street.

B: Emma? No way. What's she doing in Seattle? I thought she moved to L.A.

A: She's visiting her cousin apparently.

B: So did you ask her out on a date for old time's sake?

A: Ha ha. No. She would have said no.

B: Oh well. She's still in town, right? You should give her a call.

A: Err, no. I don't think so.

47. Go out (2)

To go somewhere for enjoyment

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
go/goes out	be going out	went out	have/has gone out

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

socialize; hang out

47.1 go out (present tense)

47.1.1 Trevor is talking to his friend, Rob about the amount of socializing each of them does.

Trevor: I don't go out nearly as much as I did in my college days.

Rob: Me, neither. I'm lucky if I have time to go out once a month these days.

Trevor: I know. Work is so tiring. I just want to sleep when I get home.

Rob: Tell me about it.

47.1.2 Vanessa is talking to her sister, Ruth, about being a new parent.

Ruth: So, how're you doing?

Vanessa: I'm ok. Just tired. So tired. Being a new mom is tough.

Ruth: I know.

Vanessa: Pat and I haven't had time to see our friends for weeks.

Ruth: Why don't you let me babysit one evening and then you and Pat can go out .

Vanessa: That would be nice. I'm still a bit nervous about leaving her. Maybe in a couple of months.

Ruth: Whenever. You just say the word.

Vanessa: Thanks.

47.1.3 Peter is inviting his friend, Dave, over to watch sports on TV.

Peter: Dave. What are you doing this weekend? Wanna come over and watch the game?

Dave: Sounds good. What about your wife? Won't she mind if we spend the whole afternoon drinking beer?

Peter: No. She goes out with her friends once a month and won't be at home this Saturday.

Dave: Cool. Sounds good. Shall I call Will, too?

Peter: Good idea.

47.2 be going out (present continuous)

47.2.1 Sophia is about to leave her house when she receives a call from a friend.

Sophia: Hi Jack. What's up?

Jack: Not much. What are you up to this evening?

Sophia: Actually, I'm going out with Jamie. We're just about to leave the house. Do you wanna join us for a drink?

Jack: Oh, no thanks. I'm not really in the mood for drinking. I was just thinking of hanging out and ordering pizza or something.

Sophia: Oh. Sorry. Maybe another time?

Jack: Sure. Have a good time with Jamie.

Sophia: Thanks. I'll call you in the week.

Jack: Ok. Bye for now.

Sophia: Bye.

47.2.2 James is trying to sneak out of the house to meet his friends. He is supposed to be studying for his English test tomorrow. His father sees him trying to escape.

Father: James? What are you doing?

James: Nothing... I was just going outside for some fresh air.

Father: Errr.. Yeah, right. I don't think so. You're wearing your party clothes.

James: I don't have party clothes.

Father: Sure, you do. You can go out after your test tomorrow. Not before!

James: But, I'm not going out. I promise.

Father: Do I look like I was born yesterday? Get back upstairs and study.

47.3 went out (past tense)

47.3.1 Anya is at a coffee shop with her friend John Paul. Anya is not feeling very well.

John Paul: Wow. Are you ok? You didn't tell me you weren't feeling well.

Anya: I'll be ok. I just need some coffee and a cigarette.

John Paul: Late night?

Anya: Yeah. I went out with Dave and his buddies. They really like their drink. Oh my head.

John Paul: Do you want something for that headache?

Anya: I've already taken something, thanks. Don't worry. I'll be fine in a couple of hours. I'm tough.

John Paul: You sure are!

47.3.2 Isabella is asking Maria about her recent vacation in Las Vegas.

Isabella: So? How was your big trip?

Maria: It was really relaxing.

Isabella: Vegas? Relaxing? What did you do?

Maria: Well, we didn't go out that much. We just decided to stay in our hotel and chill out. We ordered room service and watched movies.

Isabella: Didn't you go out at all? It's Vegas, baby!

Maria: Oh, we went out a couple of times. We saw some shows. It was great.

Isabella: Well, I'm glad you had a good time.

47.4 be going out (past continuous)

47.4.1 Stefan is asking Claire about her evening.

Stefan: How was your Saturday night? Do anything fun?

Claire: Well, I was going out with Rob to see a movie, but his car broke down on the way there. We had to wait ages for the repair guy and we missed the movie.

Stefan: Oh no. That sucks.

Claire: Yeah. We ended up watching some crappy movie on TV.

47.5 have/has gone out (present perfect)

47.5.1 Liz and Gabrielle are chatting after class. Gabrielle wants to go out at the weekend and is inviting Liz to go with her.

Gabrielle: I really need to go out this weekend. I'm so sick of studying for these exams. Come with me.

Liz: Oh, I shouldn't. I've gone out three times in the last month. I have to save some money. Otherwise, I won't be able to afford my rent.

Gabrielle: Too bad. I guess I'll have to wait until after the exams.

47.5.2 Jamie is driving with his younger brother, Don. Jamie lives in L.A. and Don is visiting him from home in Arkansas. Jamie is taking his brother drinking with his friends in downtown L.A.

Don: Man, this is great. I can't wait to go to college.

Jamie: Why are you so excited?

Don: I dunno. I've never gone out in a big city before. It's cool.

Jamie: Well, prepare yourself for a crazy night!

Don: Yeah!

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations:

1.

A: Do you wanna _____ somewhere this weekend?

B: Like where?

A: I dunno. We haven't been drinking with Jeff and Mario for ages.

B: Actually, that sounds like fun. Let's call them.

2.

A: Why don't you want to come out with us on Saturday? You're the life of the party!

B: Ha ha. Maybe I am, but I'm broke. I _____ three times last week and I won't have any cash until payday next week.

3.

A: I have such a hangover. I feel terrible.

B: Pam and I don't _____ much anymore since we had the baby. I miss drinking with friends, but I certainly don't miss hangovers!

4.

A: How often do you guys _____ ?

B: Quite a lot, I guess. How about you and Josh?

A: Well, we _____ three times last week, but that was very unusual for us. We just have a lot of friends with birthdays in the same month.

5.

A: Where's your mom?

B: Oh, she's _____ with some of her friends.

A: Well, that means we have the house to ourselves.

B: Yes, it does! Want a drink?

A: Thought you'd never ask!

48. Go out (3)

Stop burning or shining

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
go/goes out	be going out	went out	have/has gone out

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

burn out; fade out; become extinguished

48.1 go out (present tense)

48.1.1 Trevor is complaining to his boss about the lighting in his office.

Trevor: Arjun. The light in my office goes out if I don't move around enough. It's really starting to annoy me. Can we ask the maintenance guys to look at it please?

Arjun: Sure. It's got a sensor which turns off the light if there's nobody in the room. I think it probably just needs adjusting.

Trevor: Ok. Thanks.

48.1.2 Pam is calling IT support because her PC isn't working properly.

Pam: Hi. I wonder if you can help me.

IT Support: Sure.

Pam: There's a problem with my PC. It switches on ok, but after a few minutes, the screen goes blank and then the power light goes out.

IT Support: Ok. That's not good. I'll send someone over to take a look at the PC.

Pam: Thank you. Today?

IT Support: Hopefully this afternoon. We're a bit short-staffed today, but I'll try to get someone over to you.

Pam: Thanks. I appreciate it.

IT Support: No problem.

48.2 be going out (present continuous)

48.2.1 Roger is camping with his college buddies. They are sitting around a campfire that they've made together.

Roger: Taro. Can you pass me some more wood. I think the fire's going out.

Taro: Sure. Here you go. I think the wood is a bit wet. That's not helping.

Roger: It'll dry out. It's ok.

48.2.2 Jean is lighting the candles on a surprise birthday cake for her friend, Anya. Her friend, Tash is helping.

Jean: There we go. It looks really nice.

Tash: Oh! The candles are going out. The breeze from the window is blowing them out.

Jean: Ok. I'll relight them. Done. Ok. Let's take the cake into the lounge before they go out again.

48.3 went out (past tense)

48.3.1 Rita is talking on the phone with her internet service provider. She is having problems connecting to the internet and has called for help.

Rita: Hi. I'm having problems connecting to the internet. Can you help me?

Engineer: Sure. Can you take a look at your modem for me, please?

Rita: Ok. I'm looking at it right now.

Engineer: Ok. Is the light marked "internet" green?

Rita: Err. It's red. Oh. It just went out. Now it's not on at all.

Engineer: I think there's a fault with the phone line. I'll check it out for you.

Rita: Thanks.

48.3.2 Fred and Olivia are vacationing and are staying in a log cabin in the woods. The cabin is heated by a log fire.

Olivia: Morning sweetie. Wow. Why's it so cold in here?

Fred: I think the fire went out in the night.

Olivia: Let me see. Yeah. I think you're right. Ok. I'm gonna get some firewood from outside and relight it.

Fred: Ok. I'll make some coffee.

Olivia: That is a fantastic idea!

48.4 be going out (past continuous)

48.4.1 Jennifer's boiler isn't working so her landlord has sent someone over to examine the boiler and repair it.

Jennifer: So, here's the boiler.

Engineer: Ok. I'll take a look at it.

Jennifer: Thanks.

10 minutes later

Engineer: I can see what's going wrong. The pilot light was going out.

Jennifer: Is that serious?

Engineer: No, no. I've replaced the faulty part. It's all fixed now.

Jennifer: Great. Thank you!

Engineer: You're welcome. No problem.

48.5 will go out (future prediction)

48.5.1 Dan is talking to his dad on the phone and is trying to explain how to use a computer program.

Dan: Ok dad. Can you see the small clock icon in the right hand corner of the screen?

Dad: Icon?

Dan: A picture. Is there a small picture of a clock?

Dad: Oh yes. Yes, I see it. It's flashing.

Dan: That means the computer is processing. You have to wait a few minutes. The flashing light will go out when the computer has finished.

Dad: Ok. I'll wait. I'll call you back in a few minutes.

Dan: Ok.

48.6 be going to go out (future prediction, with certainty)

48.6.1 Emma and her friend, Jamie, are shopping for their friend Joe's birthday.

Emma: Hey, look at these great birthday candles! They'd look great on Joe's cake.

Jamie: They would, but I think we should get these relighting candles.

Emma: What are they?

Jamie: They relight automatically if they get blown out.

Emma: Ok. Why do we need them?

Jamie: Well, we're having a barbecue for Joe's birthday so we'll be outside and the weather forecast says it might be a bit windy. If we get regular candles, they're going to go out.

Emma: I see. Good idea! Let's get them. It'll be funny anyway because Joe won't be able to blow them out, no matter how hard he tries!

48.7 have/has gone out (present perfect)

48.7.1 Wesley is at home with his wife, Tina, when there is a power cut.

Wesley: Oh no. Power cut. I'll get the flashlight.

Tina: I can't believe this. I still need to do some work.

Wesley: All the lights on the street have gone out. It's not us, it must be the whole street.

Tina: Great. That's the last thing I need.

48.7.2 Kevin has just arrived home from work. He notices that the Christmas light he put up outside his house are not working. He asks his partner about it.

Kevin: Hey, honey. Did you notice the Christmas lights have all gone out.

Partner: Really? They were on when I went out a half hour ago.

Kevin: Maybe the fuse has blown. I'll check.

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations:

1.

A: Ok. Who's going to make a campfire?

B: I'm no good at lighting fires.

A: It's not that hard.

B: If I make a fire, it always _____ .

2.

A: Ok, mom. Click the "ok" button with the mouse.

B: Ok. I've done that. What happens next.

A: Has the flashing light _____ yet?

B: No, it's still flashing.

A: Ok. Tell me when it has _____ .

B: Ok. I will.

3.

A: What's wrong?

B: All the lights just _____ .

A: Do you have a flashlight?

B: Nope. I need to use my phone as a light. I'll call you back.

A: Ok. No problem. Speak to you soon.

B: Bye.

4.

A: Ok. I think we're ready to take in the cake.

B: Oh no. Some of the candles have _____ .

A: Where are the matches. I'll relight them.

5.

A: We need to put more wood on the fire. It's going to _____ .

B: It's your turn to fetch wood from outside.

A: I'm pretty sure I did it last time.

B: Err no. It was definitely me.

A: Ok. If you say so.

49. Go out (4)

have a (romantic) relationship with someone

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
go/goes out	be going out	went out	have/has gone out

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

be in a relationship with

This meaning of “go out” is often used together with the word “with”.

49.1 go out (present tense)

49.1.1 Wayne and Peter are discussing a girl in their class. Wayne thinks she's very attractive and wants to ask her out on a date, but Peter is not optimistic about his chances.

Wayne: I think I'm going to ask her out.

Peter: Wayne. Pretty, rich girls don't go out with guys like us.

Wayne: What do you mean, "guys like us"?

Peter: How much money do you have in the bank right now?

Wayne: Hmmm. Not much.

Peter: I'm telling you. Rich girls only go out with rich guys.

Wayne: That's not always true.

Peter: It is true long-term.

Wayne: I'm gonna ask her out anyway.

Peter: Good luck.

Wayne: I don't need luck. I have my pretty face!

Peter: Like I said. Good luck!

49.1.2 Helen and Sophie are talking about their friend, Yvonne.

Helen: Did I tell you about Yvonne?

Sophie: What about her?

Helen: She's dating this really weird guy.

Sophie: Have you met him?

Helen: Yeah. Really weird. She always goes out with oddballs, but this guy is just plain weird.

Sophie: Well, as long as she's happy.

Helen: I guess.

49.2 be going out (present continuous)

49.2.1 Mike meets his friend Liam, who he hasn't seen for a long time.

Mike: So Liam. How's life?

Liam: I'm good. Can't complain. How about you?

Mike: Not bad. Not bad.

Liam: How's your love life? Seeing anyone?

Mike: Yes, actually. I'm going out with a really great girl called Lucy.

Liam: Good for you, Mike.

Mike: How about you?

Liam: Nah. I'm not going out with anyone at the moment.

Mike: I'll introduce you to a good friend of mine. She's perfect for you.

Liam: Cool. Thanks!

49.3 went out (past tense)

49.3.1 Tracy is talking about her new love interest with her friend, John.

Tracy: So, I'm going out with this really cool guy now.

John: Great. What's he like?

Tracy: He's really into motorbikes and racing. He's so sexy.

John: I went out with a guy who was into cars, but he was just too interested in his car and didn't pay enough attention to me.

Tracy: Yeah. This guy is the same, but I don't care if it doesn't work out. He's just so hot!

John: Well, good for you. Enjoy it while it lasts.

49.4.1 Jake and Ed are talking about their high school days and who they dated.

Jake: Do you remember Tracy Ramirez?

Ed: Of course. She was beautiful.

Jake: Didn't you go out with her for a while?

Ed: Me? No. She went out with Mike for a while, but not me.

Jake: Oh yeah. Mike. Lucky guy!

49.4 be going out (past continuous)

49.4.1 Anna and Sara are talking about the crushes they had in high school.

Anna: Who did you have a crush on in your senior year?

Sara: Me? Well, there was this guy on the football team. I had such a crush on him, but he was going out with one of the cheerleaders.

Anna: You should have asked him out.

Sara: He cheated on his girlfriends a lot so I probably dodged a bullet there!

49.5 will go out (strongly determined to do in the future)

49.5.1 Maria and Yuina are talking about a guy in their English class who Yuina really likes.

Maria: Are you going to ask Andrei out on a date?

Yuina: I am. I'm going to ask him today at lunch.

Maria: What if he says, "no"?

Yuina: I'll keep asking until he says, "yes".

Maria: Ok, stalker.

Yuina: Ha ha. I will go out with him.

Maria: Ok. If you say so!

49.6 have/has gone out (present perfect)

49.6.1 Sergei and Mark are talking about people they've dated in the past.

Sergei: So who do you like in our class?

Mark: I really like our teacher. She's really sexy.

Sergei: She's old enough to be your mother. You like older women?

Mark: Sure. I've gone out with quite a few older women.

Sergei: Really? Well, maybe you should ask her out on a date!

Mark: No. She's married and has kids.

49.6.2 Yusuf and Liam are talking about their past girlfriends.

Yusuf: Man. I've gone out with some really crazy girls.

Liam: Crazy how?

Yusuf: When we broke up, they did crazy things like cutting up my shirts!

Liam: Oh. Must have been a bad break up.

Yusuf: Yeah. I suppose I shouldn't have gone out with her best friend afterwards!

Liam: Oh my god. You dog!

Yusuf: I know. The heart wants what the heart wants.

Liam: The heart?

Yusuf: Ha ha.

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations:

1.

A: Why do you like that guy? You always _____ with the meanest guys.

B: He's not mean. He's just misunderstood. He's really sweet to me sometimes.

A: Sometimes really isn't enough.

2.

A: I think I need to find a great guy like you did grandma.

B: Well, you have to kiss a lot of frogs before you find a Prince Charming! I _____ with a lot of guys who weren't right for me when I was your age.

A: Really? Well, I guess there's hope for me yet.

B: Of course there is.

3.

A: Hey, John. Do you wanna catch a movie with me this weekend?

B: I'm flattered, but I'm _____ with someone. Sorry.

A: Oh well. You don't ask you don't get, right?

4.

A: Have you ever _____ with someone much younger than you?

B: Hmmm. No. I usually date people my own age or slightly older.

5.

A: I tell you, Emma. Sometimes relationships with someone from a different culture are hard. There can be so many misunderstandings.

B: I haven't _____ with someone from a different culture before. It must be challenging.

A: It is sometimes, but it's always interesting.

50. Go out (5)

Travel far away to a specific place

Present	Continuous	Past	Present perfect
go/goes out	be going out	went out	have/has gone out

Nonseparable

Verbs of similar meaning:

go away to; travel to

50.1 go out (present tense)

50.1.1 Amelia is talking to her partner about her schedule for the following week.

Amelia: Honey, I have to go out to Berlin on business next week.

Partner: Ok. When will you be back.

Amelia: I need to leave on Monday and I'll be back Thursday. Sorry.

Partner: It's ok. I have lots of TV that I want to watch.

50.1.2 Will and Tess are trying to decide where to go on vacation.

Will: I want to go back to the lakes.

Tess: We always go out to the lakes. It's such a long drive. Let's go somewhere else.

Will: But, it's so beautiful out there.

Tess: I know, but I think it's time for a change. Let's go to a city this year.

Will: Ok.

50.2 be going out (present continuous for fixed plans)

50.2.1 Olivia and Ruby are talking about their plans for after they graduate from college.

Olivia: I'm thinking about taking a year out to volunteer before I get a job.

Ruby: Really? What will you do for money?

Olivia: I'll probably work part-time somewhere.

Ruby: Sounds good. I'm going out to Nepal to volunteer for a few months, actually. Do you wanna come too?

Olivia: Wow! You didn't tell me. When did you decide that?

Ruby: Just recently. I've been thinking about it for a while.

Olivia: It sounds really interesting. Tell me more....

50.3 went out (past tense)

50.3.1 Charlotte and Hugo are talking about what they did last summer.

Charlotte: Did you go anywhere nice last summer vacation?

Hugo: Actually, I went out to the Sahara.

Charlotte: Really? That must have been cool. Well, hot, of course, but cool. Oh, you know what I mean!

Hugo: Yes. It was hot... and cool.

Charlotte: What did you do there?

Hugo: Oh, the usual. I rode on a camel and stayed with Bedouins in a tent.

Charlotte: Cool! I wish I could try something like that, but I'm broke.

50.3.2 Noah and Lucas are talking about where they want to go in spring break.

Noah: I really want to go out to Australia for spring break. The surf is supposed to be amazing.

Lucas: My cousin went out to Australia last year to go surfing and he said it was awesome.

Noah: I have to get another job. I can't afford to go.

Lucas: Beg your mom and dad.

Noah: Tried that. Didn't work!

50.3.3 Jamie and Claire go to college together in the US. They are talking about where they come from.

Jamie: You're Canadian, right?

Claire: Actually I have dual nationality. I have a British passport, too.

Jamie: Really? How come?

Claire: Well, I was born in London, but we went out to Canada when I was six months old and stayed there.

Jamie: I see.

50.4 be going out (past continuous for plans in the past that changed or were cancelled)

50.4.1 Tom is trying to arrange to meet up with a friend for dinner.

Tom: Hi, Will. How're you?

Will: Good, thanks. You?

Tom: Pretty good. Say, do you want to meet up for dinner next week?

Will: Sure. Let me check what's happening next week. Hang on...
Ok. I was going out to China on a business trip, but that got postponed so I'm free any day next week.

Tom: Great. How about Wednesday evening. 7pm in town?

Will: Perfect. I'll call you Wednesday evening.

Tom: See you.

Will: Bye.

50.5 be going to go out (future plan)

50.5.1 Jack is inviting his friend, Francesco, to go camping in the mountains.

Jack: Francesco. Are you doing anything next weekend?

Francesco: No. Nothing planned.

Jack: I'm going to go out to Tiger Mountain to go hiking and camping with a few buddies. Do you wanna come?

Francesco: I'd love to. Sounds wonderful. I love camping.

50.6 have/has gone out (present perfect)

50.6.1 Cooper has gone to his cousin, Joe's family home looking for Joe. He knocks on the door and Joe's mom, Pam, opens the door.

Cooper: Hi Pam!

Pam: Cooper! What a nice surprise. How are you?

Cooper: I'm good. I was in town with work and thought I'd drop by. I tried texting Joe, but he didn't reply.

Pam: Oh. Joe has gone out to Liberia to volunteer with a medical team out there.

Cooper: Wow. You must be so worried.

Pam: Well, the number of Ebola cases is dropping now, but yes, we are very worried.

Cooper: He's very brave.

Pam: You know Joe. He can't sit by and watch people suffering. That's why he became a doctor, after all.

Cooper: I know. Well, please say, "hi", from me the next time you get to talk to him.

Pam: Of course.

Exercises

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations:

1.

A: What are you up to this weekend?

B: Me and my partner are _____ to the mountains for a hike.

A: Sounds nice.

2.

A: Hi John. Have you seen Roger recently?

B: No. He's _____ to Siberia for the summer to do some research.

A: Oh. That would explain why he hasn't answered my texts. Do you know when he's coming back?

B: Not exactly. I think he'll be back before the end of August.

A: Thanks. I'll email him.

3.

A: Are you free for lunch next Tuesday?

B: Let me check. I was _____ to Shanghai for a conference, but I've decided to cancel so, yes I'm free.

4.

A: Where do you and your wife like to go on vacation?

B: We usually _____ to the lakes. We love to kayak.

5.

A: Mom. I want to _____ to Nepal and volunteer.

B: Is it safe? What if there's another earthquake?

A: There has just been a huge earthquake. It's not likely there'll be another big one for a long time.

B: Are you sure. Some people _____ to Africa to volunteer and never come back!

A: Like, who?

B: I don't know. People. You hear about it on the news.

A: Don't panic, mom. I'll be fine.

Review Quiz 2

Fill in the blanks in the following conversations by using the correct phrasal verb from the list below. Make sure you use the correct tense.

Phrasal verb list:

talk to / come back / get to / go back / think about / go out

1.

A: How did you give up eating sweets?

B: Well, I needed to lose weight for my health so I just stopped eating chocolate and other desserts.

A: Wasn't it hard?

B: Very hard at first. The cravings were terrible, but eventually they stopped and they haven't _____ .

2.

A: Have you been to this restaurant before? (*A shows tablet screen to B*)

B: What's the name?

A: Indian Heaven.

B: Yes, I have.

A: How do you _____ there?

B: Oh, I'm not sure. A friend drove me there the last time I went.

A: Ah. I see.

3.

A: Why are you frowning like that? What's up?

B: I'm _____ my presentation.

A: Presentation?

B: I have to make a presentation to the board next week. The presentation has to be perfect. That's why I'm frowning.

A: I see.

4.

A: Mom. I want to _____ to Nepal and volunteer.

B: Is it safe? What if there's another earthquake?

A: There has just been a huge earthquake. It's not likely there'll be another big one for a long time.

B: Are you sure. Some people _____ to Africa to volunteer and never come back!

A: Like, who?

B: I don't know. People. You hear about it on the news.

A: Don't panic, mom. I'll be fine.

5.

A: I _____ my boss yesterday about my latest project. I told her that I was having some difficulties.

B: Was she sympathetic?

A: Yes. She's put me in contact with a good project manager in the company who's going to coach me.

B: That's good.

6.

A: Oh. I have terrible indigestion.

B: Sorry to hear that. Have you _____ cutting gluten out of your diet?

A: No? Why?

B: A lot of people are actually gluten intolerant and just don't know it.

A: Really? Maybe I should give it a try.

7.

A: Ok, mom. Click the "ok" button with the mouse.

B: Ok. I've done that. What happens next.

A: Has the flashing light _____ yet?

B: No, it's still flashing.

A: Ok. Tell me when it has _____ .

B: Ok. I will.

8.

A: Who do you think will win the World Cup this time?

B: I'm not sure. Spain has _____ from their loss against Italy, but I still think Germany is the strongest team.

9.

A: Why is mom in such a bad mood, dad?

B: We both get tired of telling you kids to clean up your mess. It _____ your mom, sometimes. We have to work hard all day and then we come home to a house that looks like a war zone. Go and clean up your stuff in the lounge and take it to your room.

A: Ok dad. Sorry.

10.

A: Did you miss us?

B: Of course. I _____ you and the little ones every day. I'm so glad to be home for a few weeks before my next business trip.

11.

A: Ok. I'm _____ for a while. When I come back I want your room to be spotless!

B: Mom. My room isn't that messy. Why do I have to clean it?

A: Because I say so.

B: Ok. What time will you be back?

A: Around 4, I think.

12.

A: What are you up to this weekend?

B: Me and my partner are _____ to the mountains for a hike.

A: Sounds nice.

13.

A: Have you used Team-S software before?

B: Yes, but it was a couple of years ago.

A: Well the basic stuff hasn't changed. I'm sure it'll _____ to you fairly quickly. Don't worry.

B: Ok.

14.

A: I can't believe people used to cut themselves with knives to cure disease.

B: Yes. It was called "bloodletting" and the practice _____ at least 3,000 years.

A: When did people stop doing it?

B: It was eventually discredited in the 19th Century.

15.

A: Hey, John. Do you wanna catch a movie with me this weekend?

B: I'm flattered, but I'm _____ with someone. Sorry.

A: Oh well. You don't ask you don't get, right?

16.

A: I _____ my daughter about her bad grades yesterday.

B: How did she react?

A: She's not talking to me. She said that she tried her best. She said it's not her fault.

B: Maybe she needs some help with her studies from a private tutor.

A: Maybe. I'm going to look for one.

17.

A: Oh no. The gas light has come on. We need to find a gas station.

B: Are we gonna _____ a gas station before we run out of gas?

A: I hope so. The GPS says there's a gas station about a mile from here.

B: Phew! Thank goodness.

18.

A: That new house across the street is so ugly. Why didn't anybody ask us what we _____ the design before it was built?

B: Well, the owners applied for permission to the council and they gave it the thumbs up.

A: They should consult the neighborhood on things like that.

B: I agree.

19.

A: Helen. I'm going out now to meet a client downtown.

B: Are you _____ this afternoon?

A: No. I'm working from home this afternoon.

B: Ok. Have a nice weekend.

A: Thanks. You too.

20.

A: Mr. Smith. Have you _____ my new project idea?

B: Yes, I have. It's extremely interesting. Let's set up a meeting to discuss things further.

A: Great. Thank you.

21.

A: Why are you still working? It's late. You should go home.

B: I know, but the design team _____ with some questions which I have to answer before I can go home.

A: Ok. See you tomorrow.

B: See you.

22.

A: So, how long have you lived in California?

B: Oh... about ten years now.

A: How often do you _____ to England?

B: I try to _____ once a year. Usually at Christmas.

23.

A: Honey. Do you know where my keys have _____?

B: You left them in the bathroom so I put them back on the key hook.

A: In the bathroom? I'm getting pretty forgetful.

24.

A: Where's your mom?

B: Oh, she's _____ with some of her friends.

A: Well, that means we have the house to ourselves.

B: Yes, it does! Want a drink?

A: Thought you'd never ask!

25.

A: Would you recommend living overseas for a year after graduating university?

B: Absolutely. I've _____ do some really amazing things while I've been overseas. I would recommend it to anyone.

Answers to Exercises

1. Look at (1)

1. look at / 2. looking at; looking at / 3. looked at / 4. looking at / 5. look at

2. Look at (2)

1. look at / 2. looked at / 3. look at; look at; look at / 4. looking at / 5. look at; looking at

3. Look at (3)

1. going to look at / 2. look at / 3. look at / 4. look at; looked at / 5. looked at

4. Look at (4)

1. looking at / 2. look at / 3. looking at / 4. looked at; look at / 5. going to look at

5. Look at (5)

The following are example answers only:

1. Yes, it does. Look at *Khans*. It's a great Indian restaurant.
2. Yes, there are. Look at Melissa Franklin. She may not be in the media very much, but she's a professor of physics at Harvard and she discovered a new subatomic particle!
3. No, they're not. Look at my brother. He went to Paris recently for a long weekend and it only cost \$200 including the train.

4. Yes, there are. Apart from Barack Obama, look at Tim Scott, he's the senator of South Carolina.

5. Yes, there are. Look at Mary Barra. She runs General Motors.

6. Set up (1)

1. set up / 2. set it up; set it up / 3. set up / 4. setting up / 5. set up

7. Set up (2)

1. set up / 2. set up / 3. set up / 4. set up / 5. setting up

8. Set up (3)

1. set up / 2. set up; set up / 3. set it up / 4. set up / 5. set up; set up

9. Go on (1)

1. goes on / 2. went on / 3. going on / 4. going on / 5. gone on

10. Go on (2)

1. gone on / 2. going on / 3. go on / 4. went on / 5. going on

11. Go on (3)

1. go on / 2. went on / 3. go on / 4. go on / 5. go on

12. Come on (1)

1. Come on / 2. Come on; Come on; Come on

13. Come on (2)

The following are example answers only:

1. Come on! Are you serious?
2. Come on. My cooking isn't that good!
3. Come on. I hardly put any sugar in it.
4. Come on. I look really fat.
5. Come on. He's such a liar!

14. Come on (3)

1. came on / 2. come on / 3. come on / 4. come on; come on / 5. come on; comes on

15. Find out

1. find out / 2. finds out / 3. find out / 4. found out / 5. found out

16. Come from (1)

1. came from / 2. come from; come from; come from / 3. come from; came from

17. Come from (2)

1. come from; come from / 2. comes from / 3. comes from; comes from

18. Come from (3)

1. came from / 2. come from / 3. comes from / 4. coming from / 5. coming from

19. Come from (4)

1. come from / 2. came from / 3. came/comes from

20. Come from (5)

1. come from; came from / 2. come from; comes from; comes from

21. Come from (6)

1. came from / 2. come from / 3. comes from / 4. come from / 5. comes from

22. Come in (1)

1. come in / 2. coming into / 3. coming in / 4. came in / 5. will come in

23. Come in (2)

1. come in / 2. came in; come in / 3. come in / 4. come in; coming in / 5. come in

24. Come in (3)

1. coming in / 2. coming in / 3. comes in / 4. coming in / 5. came in

25. Come in (4)

1. came in / 2. coming in / 3. coming in / 4. come in / 5. came in

26. Come in (5)

1. came in; come in / 2. come in; come in / 3. come in; come in

Review Quiz 1

1. come from; came from / 2. came in / 3. come on; come on / 4. looked at / 5. looking at; looking at / 6. set up / 7. set up; set up / 8. go on / 9. come on; come on; come on / 10. come on / 11. found out / 12. comes from / 13. coming from / 14. came on / 15. come from; comes from / 16. comes from / 17. come in; come in / 18. come in / 19. looked at; look at / 20. come in; coming in / 21. come from / 22. comes from / 23. comes in / 24. look at; look at; look at / 25. looking at

27. Talk to (1)

1. talk to / 2. talking to; talk to / 3. talked to / 4. talked to / 5. talk to; talk to

28. Talk to (2)

1. talked to; talk to; talk to / 2. talk to / 3. talk to; talked to; talk to / 4. talk to / 5. talked to

29. Come back (1)

1. come back / 2. come back; come back / 3. come back / 4. coming back / 5. coming back

30. Come back (2)

1. come back / 2. came back / 3. come back / 4. come back / 5. come back

31. Come back (3)

1. come back / 2. came back / 3. come back / 4. going to come back / 5. come back; come back

32. Come back (4)

1. come back / 2. come back; come back / 3. come back / 4. come back / 5. come back

33. Come back (5)

1. come back / 2. come back / 3. come back / 4. come back / 5. come back

34. Get to (1)

1. get to; get to / 2. get to / 3. gotten there / 4. get to / 5. get to; get to

35. Get to (2)

1. getting to / 2. get to / 3. get to / 4. get / 5. get

36. Get to (3)

1. get to / 2. get to / 3. gotten to

37. Get to (4)

1. getting to / 2. gets to / 3. get to / 4. gets to / 5. getting to

38. Get to (5)

1. got to / 2. gotten to / 3. getting to; get to / 4. got to; get to / 5. get to

39. Go back (1)

1. go back; go back / 2. going back / 3. went back / 4. going back / 5. gone back

40. Go back (2)

1. go back / 2. go back / 3. go back / 4. goes back / 5. went back

41. Think about (1)

1. think about / 2. thinking about / 3. thinking about / 4. thought about / 5. thought about; think about

42. Think about (2)

1. think about / 2. thinking about / 3. thinking about / 4. thought about / 5. thought about

43. Think about (3)

1. thought about; thought about / 2. thinking about / 3. thinking about / 4. think about / 5. thought about

44. Think about (4)

1. think about / 2. thinks about / 3. thought about / 4. thought about / 5. think about

45. Think about (5)

1. think about / 2. think about / 3. 've thought / 4. thinking about / 5. thinking about

46. Go out (1)

1. has gone out **or** went out / 2. going out / 3. going out / 4. gone out / 5. going to

47. Go out (2)

1. go out / 2. went out / 3. go out / 4. go out; went out / 5. gone out

48. Go out (3)

1. goes out / 2. gone out; gone out / 3. went out / 4. gone out / 5. go out

49. Go out (4)

1. go out / 2. went out / 3. going out / 4. gone out / 5. gone out

50. Go out (5)

1. going out / 2. gone out / 3. going out to / 4. go out / 5. go out; go out

Review Quiz 2

1. come back / 2. get / 3. thinking about / 4. go out; go out / 5. talked to / 6. thought about / 7. gone out; gone out / 8. come back / 9. gets to / 10. thought about / 11. going out / 12. going out / 13. come back / 14. went back / 15. going out / 16. talked to / 17. get to / 18. thought about / 19. coming back / 20. thought about / 21. came back / 22. go back; go back / 23. gotten to / 24. gone out / 25. gotten to

Phrasal Verb Selection

The following is a technical description of how I selected the phrasal verbs for this book.

There are many phrasal verbs in the English language and each can have several meanings. It is therefore very difficult for English learners to select which phrasal verbs will be most useful.

In this book, I have chosen a total of 50 different phrasal verb meanings which I believe will be the most useful in everyday conversation at home, at work, and with friends.

To select the phrasal verbs in this book, I created a list of 400 phrasal verbs and used an extremely large online English language database to determine a usage frequency ranking. I then looked at each phrasal verb individually and gave it a score based on my own personal experience of how often I use it in daily life. Next, for each phrasal verb, I multiplied the usage frequency rank by my personal score to give it an overall utility score which was used to rank the 400 phrasal verbs. I then listed every possible meaning for each phrasal verb and ranked each of those meanings for utility. Finally, I selected the top ranking 50 meanings and based the conversations in this book on them.



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